

Abduction linked to shoplift charge in Manchester

Diplomatic storm after Tehran kidnap release

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain and Iran were trying to defuse a tense diplomatic stand-off last night after the release of a senior British diplomat in Tehran who was held hostage for 24 hours in apparent retaliation for the arrest of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester.

The British Interests Section's Second Secretary in Iran, Mr Edward Chaplin, aged 36, was returned to his family at their Tehran home after being imprisoned overnight at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards in the centre of the Iranian capital.

An ominous statement from the Islamic Revolutionary Committee later said that Mr Chaplin had only been "released temporarily".

According to diplomatic colleagues he was "severely beaten, battered and bruised" during his detention and spent

part of yesterday handcuffed to a chair after being driven to several locations run by revolutionary committees in the city.

Although he was never informed why he had been seized at gunpoint from his car on Thursday afternoon, it became clear yesterday that his abduction was directly related to the arrest in Manchester earlier that day of Mr Ahmed Ghassemi, an employee of the Iranian Consulate-General in Manchester.

Mr Ghassemi was arrested by plainclothes officers after a high-speed chase through

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suburban Manchester, which ended in a scuffle with police officers and his detention at Bootle Street police station.

Mr Ghassemi had been arrested on May 9, accused of stealing five pairs of socks and a purse from three shops in the Ardale shopping centre in Manchester. At the time he claimed diplomatic immunity, but police later established that he did not have full diplomatic status and went to his house to make the arrest.

Yesterday the Iranian chargé d'affaires in London, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond Basti, claimed that the arresting officers had "harassed and tortured" Mr Ghassemi, although witnesses later said he looked fit and healthy when he reappeared in London.

Although officials in London and Tehran were at pains to play down the connection between the two arrests, police sources in Manchester said that the Home Office received a warning on Thursday that unless Mr Ghassemi was freed Mr Chaplin would be shot.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said that the Government would be pressing the Iranian authorities to find out who was responsible for Mr Chaplin's arrest. Asked if there was any deal involved to secure his release he said: "No. None whatsoever. As you know we do not have the policy of making deals."

It is still not clear why Mr Ghassemi was allowed to go free on bail on Thursday pending a court hearing on June 11 on six charges, including theft, reckless driving,

resisting arrest and breaking a policeman's wristwatch.

The Iranians had described the armed and violent kidnapping of Mr Chaplin as "detention on suspicion". Western diplomats in Tehran, however, had learned within hours of Mr Chaplin's abduction that the Iranian authorities would make an immediate demand for the release of Mr Ghassemi.

Yesterday morning, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman promptly protested at the "illegal arrest" of Mr Ghassemi in Manchester, demanding an official explanation for his detention.

But after one of the most extraordinary diplomatic episodes of its kind - even by Tehran standards - Sheikh Holismat, the Minister of Political Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, secured the release of Mr Chaplin from the revolutionary guards, sending the stunned diplomat back to his family home at the British diplomatic compound at Golhak in north Tehran.

The most puzzling aspect of the whole incident was the degree to which the Iranian authorities themselves were involved in the kidnapping.

The West German Ambassador to Iran, Herr Armin Freitag, witnessed the assault on Mr Chaplin but his Iranian guards refused to intervene when they realised that the kidnappers were from an official revolutionary committee. When Mr Freitag himself attempted to help Mr Chaplin's wife Nicola, who was still in her husband's car with their two children, he was threatened with a rifle by one of the gunmen.

In fact, the six revolutionary guards who rammed their jeep into the side of the diplomat's Range Rover as he was driving on the Mohandessin motorway in Tehran are believed to have been working either for Mr Hussein Mousavi, the Iranian Prime Minister, or for the office of Ayatollah Khomeini himself.

Yet the kidnapping can only cause acute embarrassment to several of the most senior officials in the Iranian Government and may thus also have been part of the internal power struggle going on in Tehran as Ayatollah Khomeini's health and political control grows steadily weaker. Since the official closing of Britain's embassy in Tehran, British diplomats in the city have worked in the



Mr Ahmed Ghassemi, the Iranian arrested in Manchester on shoplifting charges, on arrival at Heathrow Airport, London, last night. (Photograph: John Manning)

Plane dodges radar and lands in Red Square

By Our Foreign Staff

A young West German pilot who flew a single-engine plane from Finland through the Soviet radar system and landed in Moscow's Red Square was accused last night by the Russians of violating Soviet air space.

The radar system was considered invulnerable, and the plane flew over some of the most sensitive military sites in the world before landing just outside the Kremlin walls.

Finnish authorities identified the pilot as Herr Mathias Rust, aged 19, who took off from Malmi airport, Helsinki, in a four-seater Cessna 172, rented from Aeroclub Hamburg, giving his destination as Stockholm's Bromma airport.

It followed his scheduled flight plan for several minutes before disappearing from Finnish radar screens, and sea rescue

forces were alerted. They were still searching for the plane when it landed in Moscow.

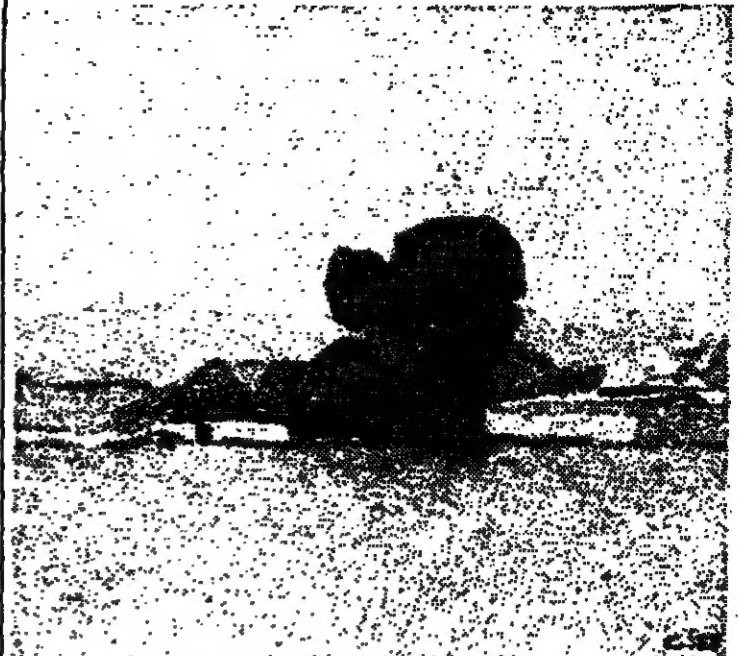
Tass said yesterday that Herr Rust crossed into Soviet air space in the area of the city of Kokkila-Jarve, on the Estonian coast about 90 miles south-east of Helsinki.

"The flight of the plane above Soviet territory was not cut short, and it landed in Moscow," Tass said. It did not say whether Herr Rust had been arrested, or if he would face criminal charges, but said that "competent bodies" were conducting an investigation.

One senior Western analyst said the incident had "astounding implications" for Soviet defences and for the debate on how a war could start by mistake.

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A royal view of home



Actual size: the Prince's painting

The artful Prince's secret is uncovered

By Robin Young

The most modest and self-effacing picture in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, a minute and some would say wishy-washy Norfolk landscape measuring just four inches square, will be the centre of a disproportionate amount of attention when the show opens on June 6.

The tiny gold-framed picture entitled "Farm Building in Norfolk" is credited in the catalogue to one Arthur George Carrick. It happens that Arthur and George are the third and fourth Christian names of the Prince of Wales. He is also Earl of Carrick.

The artist gives a west London address in the summer show catalogue. It is that of Prince Charles's private secretary, Sir John Riddell. Arthur George Carrick signs his miniature, as Prince Charles habitually does, with a simple "C" and the date - 87.

The subject of the Prince's quiet and understated little study, a distant view of farm buildings and trees against pale brown earth and pale blue sky, is instantly recognizable to those who know the Sandringham Estate.

The Times photographer, Mr Julian Herbert, said as soon as he saw it: "I know that place. It is Wood Farm in Norfolk, where the Prince and Princess of Wales stay when they are at Sandringham."

The Prince's pseudonymous submission is, it seems, a little

lucky to have been hung in the exhibition, competent though it is.

There were 13,570 entries this year (an 8 per cent increase) and only 1,320 were in the Academy's arcane phraseology, "made doubtful", that is, provisionally accepted and memories on the selection and hanging committee, have become vague as to whether Arthur George Carrick's miniature was originally one of these.

The picture may have been initially rejected, it seems, but later brought back for reconsideration when someone at the Academy recognized its royal origins. It is, Academicians were anxious to emphasize yesterday, not unusual for pictures to be recalled and judgement on them revised for all sorts of reasons.

The final decision that the Prince should have his modicum of wall-space in Gallery VII - beside a larger, more meticulous landscape of east-houses in Kent by Matthew Alexander, and immediately below a £750 prize-winning intense green water-colour called "Dream Garden" by a little-known artist called David Saff, rested with Mr Paul Hogarth, the hanging committee member who placed the small water-colours in the exhibition. Mr Hogarth was abroad yesterday. It was noticeable, though, that while

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Black child detainees freed

Johannesburg - Several hundred black South African youngsters who have been held in jail without trial since June 12 of last year have been set free over the past week, according to civil rights workers here (Michael Hornsby writes).

The youngsters, aged 18 and under, had been held under the state of emergency regulations.

The youngsters feared the releases

were intended to make room in prisons for a fresh intake of detainees prior to the anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu called on foreign countries yesterday to break off diplomatic relations with Pretoria if all children had not been released from jail by the end of June.

Maputo raid, page 4

US pledge to keep Gulf open

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan, saying that "peace is at stake", warned bluntly yesterday that the United States would not allow Iran to dictate the use of the vital sea lanes of the Persian Gulf. And the lanes would not be allowed to come under the control of the Soviet Union.

"The Persian Gulf will remain open to navigation by all nations," he said.

"I will not permit the Middle East to become a choke point for freedom or a tinderbox of international conflict."

He declared that the US presence in the Gulf was essential to prevent wider conflict in the Middle East. It was a prerequisite to helping end the brutal and violent Iran-Iraq war.

"Until peace is restored and there is no longer a risk to shipping in the region we must maintain an adequate presence to deter and if necessary to defend ourselves against accidental attack or against intentional attack."

Iran hint, page 4

INSIDE

Ferry safety

There was no reason why the Herald of Free Enterprise's car doors could not have been closed five minutes before sailing, the Zebrugge inquiry chairman said. Page 2

Savers' plan

Family Money offers a plan of action for savers and investors in the event of Labour being elected. Pages 28-35

Portfolio Gold

● There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £8,000 plus the daily £4,000.
● Yesterday's £4,000 was won by Mrs Alberta McLaren, of Islington, north London.
● Portfolio daily list, page 27; weekly check, page 35.

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Labour counter-attack on leadership

ELECTION 87 X

Liberal discontent at Owen Veto on proposal 'bias' towards Thatcher to end VAT choice

By Philip Webster, Sheila Gunn and Nicholas Wood

The Liberal/Social Democrat Alliance is planning to revise its general election tactics amid the first signs of tension between the two parties over their disappointing start to the campaign.

Admitting that mistakes were made in the early part of the campaign by dismissing Labour as irrelevant, Alliance strategists have agreed to inject more fire into their effort in an attempt to pick up the floating vote and to direct their attack equally at both main parties.

In what some members of the Alliance's election team are calling a "new start", the two parties are planning to change the tone of their approach by moving away from an emphasis on the promotion of detailed policy programmes

to broader themes such as unemployment, poverty, deprivation and social justice.

At the same time the Labour Party is planning a counter-attack to switch the focus of the election away

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from defence on to other issues, including Mrs Thatcher's style of leadership.

The Alliance rethink comes amid indications of discontent in Mr Steel's camp over what they believe the public sees as Dr David Owen's "bias" towards the Conservatives.

Mr Steel's aides fear that

what they regard as Dr Owen's "obsession" with defence is hindering their chances of picking up the anti-Thatcher vote.

One said yesterday that the campaign had revealed there was a considerable anti-Thatcher vote but it was being picked up by Labour because of Dr Owen's apparent bias to the Conservatives. It was said that Dr Owen was deterring voters who wanted to move from Thatcherism but feared that the SDP leader was too eager to prop up a third Thatcher government.

Alliance planners now accept that it was wrong to have treated Labour, in Mr David Steel's words, as being "unelectable". They admit

Continued on page 22, col 1

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that Britain would veto European Commission proposals to end the right of individual countries to decide which products to exempt from VAT.

Officials in Brussels have been drawing up proposals to harmonize VAT rates throughout the European Community, a plan which would inevitably mean the end of the "zero-rating" which currently applies in Britain to items like food, fuel, children's clothing, newspapers and books.

The proposal has already become an election issue, with the Labour Party alleging that the EEC will be forcing the United Kingdom into increasing VAT. The proposals have been drawn up by civil servants working for Lord

Cockfield, the former Cabinet minister sent by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Brussels as a British commissioner.

At her daily election press conference yesterday, Mrs Thatcher again declined to give an undertaking that the Government would not impose VAT on water, gas and electricity. The Government's line has consistently been that it cannot rule out tax changes for all time, although the Prime Minister has said VAT will not be applied to food.

But she then said for the first time that she would stand in the way of plans to end zero-rating. She stated: "If the Community comes in with a Community law to change our capacity to zero-rate what we want to zero-rate we should use our veto against that."

Hecklers and socialism get a sporting chance

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

In an unscheduled fixture, the half-lit turf of Farnham All Saints football pitch was graced yesterday by the Bomb Squad. Half a dozen bulky gents complete with metal detectors covered, in soccer parlance, every blade of grass, while another poked around in the goalmouth with a spade.

Their job completed, two uniformed police officers then proceeded solemnly to patrol the touchline in the event of any crowd trouble.

It was all too much for two old boys who had been conscientiously tending their patch in an adjacent allotment in the quiet Suffolk village. Overcome by curiosity they leaned on their shovels and watched as dozens of local

worthies probably more used to croquet lawns, turned up in force.

With the largest crowd Farnham All Saints has had, all that was needed were the players - or to be more precise, the player. Mrs Thatcher arrived out of the sky by helicopter and, accompanied by Sir Eldon Griffiths, she addressed the crowd in the style of Kenny Dalglish visiting the Kop.

But the reception was not as sycophantic as normal. "Keep on at the unemployment and the schools," said one lady respectfully.

The Prime Minister knelt and received a posy of flowers from a young child while a white corgi plastered with "Vote Conservative" stickers came forth to sniff the Prime

Minister before being quickly pulled away.

Mr T quickly warmed to the task. "Labour's reckless defence policies... the economy is growing year by year."

And then it happened. The Prime Minister came face to face with her first heckler - and a Liberal county councillor to boot. A worried Sir Eldon moved alongside Mr Graham Jones and within seconds they were happily swapping insults.

Meanwhile the circus moved on to an electrical factory in Bury St Edmunds near by, where she allowed a vehicle with a pressure sensing bumper to hit her and stop automatically. "We Tories are not a pushover," she said.

The real purpose of her trip was

near at hand. Ipswich is a socialist blot on Mrs Thatcher's Conservative East Anglia, mainly due to the immense popularity of Mr Kenneth Weale, an extreme moderate in Labour Party terms. The town was her next port of call.

"Only one loony left - vote her out," one novel placard said as she arrived. The only sport was provided by the scrum of photographers and television camera crews.

Then it was off to Rose (not red) Cottage Farm in Rivenhall to see willow trees which are used for making cricket bats. Clearly it was a sporting day, but the Conservative who would perhaps have appreciated it most, Mr Denis Thatcher, was nowhere to be seen.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Customs officers back at ports

More than 300 customs officers resumed work yesterday after strikes which disrupted ports on the south and east coasts for much of the week.

However, union officials gave a warning that intensified strike action could follow at ports around Britain after the result of a ballot of 240,000 Civil Servants on a new phase in a campaign aimed at renegotiating a 15 per cent pay claim.

Delays of several hours were reported at most of the ports as management fought to clear a backlog of exports. The British Ports Association, which gave a warning of a rush by freight carriers to the affected ports, said: "If there is a recurrence it will be a more serious situation".

The first customs officers returned at Dover and Ramsgate early yesterday. They were followed last night by officers at Portsmouth, Newhaven, Poole and Weymouth.

Heart boy is 'stable' Fine for egg hoard

A boy aged 12 was yesterday said to be in a stable condition after becoming the youngest heart and lung transplant patient at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge.

David Kellaway, of Tavistock, Devon, was the hospital's twenty-fifth recipient of a heart and lung transplant. Three months ago he was given only six months to live without the operation.

He had two holes in his heart and a faulty valve that was leaking fluid into his lungs.

A wildlife enthusiast's collection of more than 4,000 bird eggs is to be given to the British Museum after he was found guilty of illegally possessing 771 eggs.

Victor Deeprose, aged 42, a motor mechanic, told Totton Magistrates' Court, near Southampton, that he would hand over every egg he had collected since 1954. Deeprose, from Bartley, Hampshire, had denied six charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

He was fined a total of £1,200 with £150 costs.

Patients in the dark

Patients wish to have more information about the medicines prescribed by their doctors, according to a survey published yesterday by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The survey, by Professor Charles George at Southampton University, showed that patients also want to know how to take their prescriptions, how to store them and what to do if they forget to take a dose.



A prince returns

Prince Edward had his first meeting yesterday with the Marines since he resigned his commission in January, when he renewed his acquaintance with his physical training instructor.

The Prince met Colonel-Sergeant Robert "Nobby" Hall, during a Royal Marines unarmed combat display, involving instructors from his former base in Torrington, north Devon.

Man questioned on killing at factory

A man was being questioned by police last night after a businessman was found shot dead at his factory in Telford, Shropshire.

Mr Barry Crellin, aged 36, of Four Ashes, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, married with two children, had been shot through the heart and several other times with a handgun. He was partner at BAR Refrigeration Services.

A 4-page election special

BRITAIN'S most informative, insightful and intelligent general election coverage continues in tomorrow's Sunday Times with a superb four-page election special.

● What are the 24 words that could lose Neil Kinnock the election?

● How are the voters thinking after two weeks of bitter campaigning?

● Can we train people fast enough to bridge the skill gap?

The Sunday Times will answer those questions — and pose many more — in the best-read election news service in the country.

Away from the election, we present the exclusive serialisation of Armand Hammer's autobiography. He reveals how, as one of the world's most successful capitalists, he became a friend of the communists.

You should not miss The Sunday Times tomorrow. It is not only, as always, compulsive reading. It is also essential reading.

UDR man in second shooting

By Richard Ford

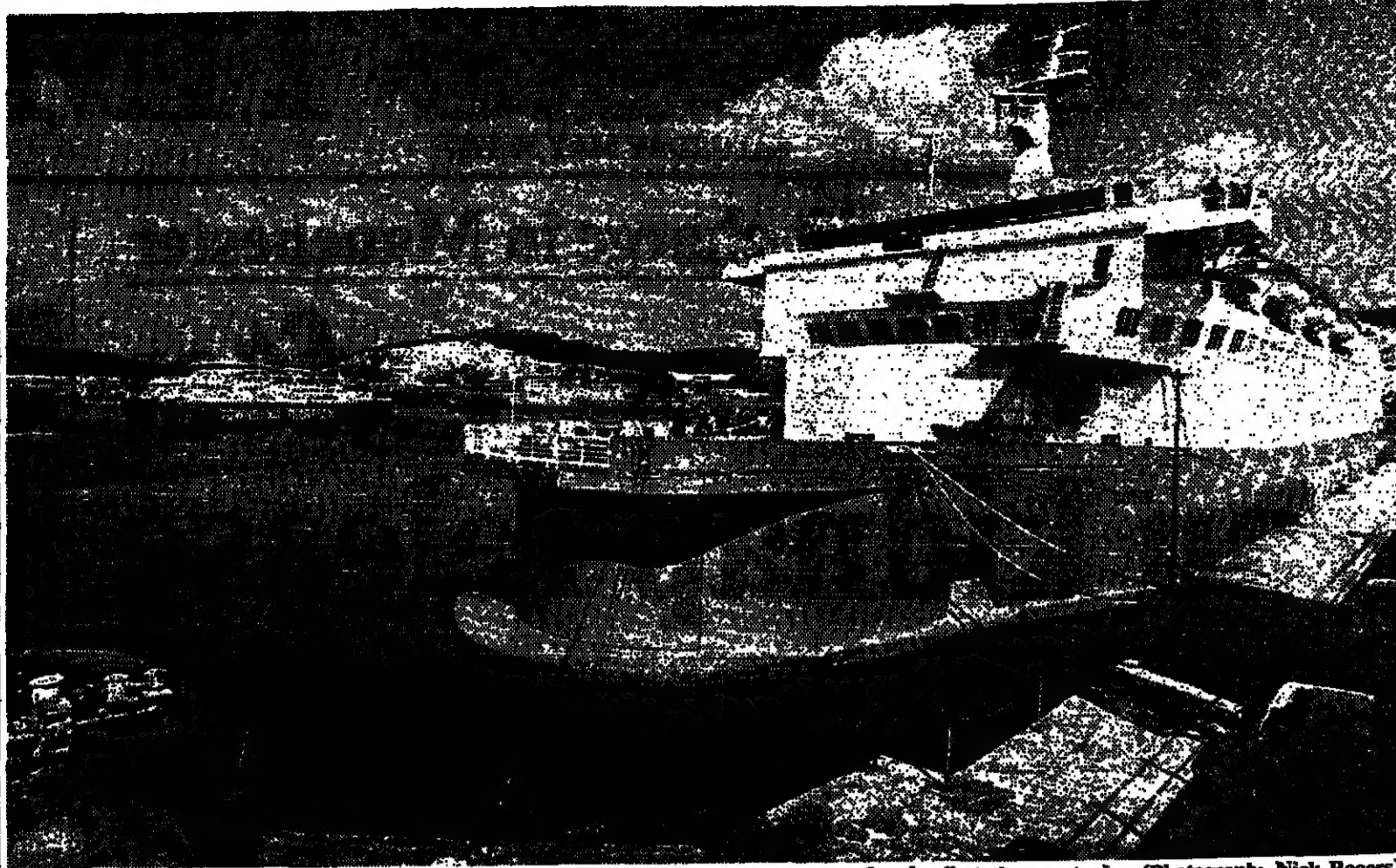
A part-time Ulster Defence Regiment soldier was critically ill in hospital last night after the second Provisional IRA assassination attempt on him in four months.

Two masked men armed with a shotgun and a pistol attacked the soldier as he stood drinking in the Castle Inn at Castlecaulfield, Co Tyrone, yesterday afternoon.

The gunman's getaway car had been stolen earlier in the day and was found at Galbally, Co Tyrone, where four of those killed in the SAS ambush at Loughall lived.

Four months ago the soldier was ambushed by gunmen as he arrived at his home early in the morning. He was shot in the shoulder but was able to return the fire and defend himself.

Mr Harold McCusker, the former Ulster Unionist MP, surrendered his personal bank account to court officials in Craigavon, Co Armagh, yesterday after refusing to pay rates in protest at the Anglo-Irish agreement.



Townsend Thoresen's new 'super-ferry', the Pride of Dover, berthed at her namesake port for the first time yesterday (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

'Nobody thought enough about safety in ferry'

Townsend super ship setting sail

By David Sapsted

The chairman of the public inquiry into the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster yesterday accused the ferry company of putting speed before safety.

There was no reason why the ferry car doors could not be closed five minutes before sailing, Mr Justice Sheen said. "If cars were left behind, so be it".

But the company's counsel, Mr Anthony Clarke, QC, insisted that time was not the cause of the disaster. "The trouble was nobody thought there was a problem", he said.

"Nobody thought. That's the trouble, nobody thought", the chairman interrupted.

Their short exchange began when Mr Clarke said: "It is everyone's interest that the ship should run both safely and on time. It is desirable for a ship to leave on time if it can, providing it can do so safely."

The chairman asked him: "What's the difficulty?"

Mr Clarke: "There isn't any."

Then the chairman told him: "If the ship sails at 6, the doors could be closed at five to six. They are only left open to let more cars on board."

Mr Clarke replied that the accident happened because there was no positive reporting system; the man who was supposed to close the doors did not and the senior officer failed to check them.

"It was not because of time pressure that nobody thought", Mr Clarke said.

In his closing speech, he said he also rejected claims made during the inquiry, now at the end of its fifth week, that the company's attitude was "high-handed".

Almost 200 people died after the assistant bosun fell asleep and did not close the doors, but the fault was a corporate one, he said.

The root cause had been that no one had given sufficient thought to the possible problems of the closure of the doors when they were introduced on Spirit class vessels in 1980, Mr Clarke said.

The company recognized that the system, set up by its board of directors, did not include any check of the systems and practices on board. The failure to set up such a system was a corporate failure.

During his submissions, Mr Clarke referred to the case of Mr Jeffrey Develin, a former chief superintendent of the company, who had been accused of misleading the inquiry when giving evidence in the second week. However, Mr Justice Sheen said that the court did not take the view that Mr Develin had deliberately intended to mislead it.

On Thursday Mr Clarke had complained that the inquiry had at times been conducted in an aggressive and unfair manner.

Mr Justice Sheen, the Wreck

Commissioner, told Mr Clarke that Mr David Steel, QC, who has led in the presentation of the facts to the inquiry, had accepted that there had been a certain amount of aggression, but the judge said he felt the suggestion that the inquiry was unfair "is excessively wounding to those who took part in it".

On at least four occasions the judge asked Mr Clarke if he would withdraw his allegations.

Mr Clarke said that he was prepared to withdraw but with the one proviso, that some witnesses had been examined in a "certain manner".

"Are you prepared to withdraw it unreservedly?" the judge asked. Mr Clarke responded: "No, sir."

Earlier Mr Steel had said it was inevitable and proper that an inquiry should be conducted in a thorough and vigorous manner.

On Tuesday the inquiry will consider the wider issues of the disaster.

Mr Justice Sheen, the Wreck

Townsend Thoresen's new super-ferry, twice as large as existing cross-Channel ferries and built to "the highest safety standards", according to the company, will make a low-key departure from Dover on its maiden voyage to Calais on Tuesday morning.

In the aftermath of the Herald of Free Enterprise tragedy in which almost 200 people perished, the company has decided that the 26,000-tonne Pride of Dover's send-off should be devoid of any ceremony or celebrations.

The ship is equipped not only with bridge warning lights to show that the loading doors are closed but also a video monitoring system. The absence of such equipment on the Herald of Free Enterprise has been blamed at the London inquiry as a contributory factor to the Zebrugga disaster on March 6.

Ironically, the arrival of the Pride of Dover would have made one of Townsend Thoresen's other ferries redundant had the Herald disaster not left the company's cross-Channel fleet one ship short.

The vessel yesterday plied between Dover and Calais in trials aimed at testing specially-built berths at each port which will enable the 650 cars the ferry is capable of carrying, to disembark two at a time.

Built in Bremerhaven, the vessel is due to be joined by a sister ship, the Pride of Calais, later this year.

The Pride can carry up to 2,300 passengers at a speed of 22 knots and, in addition to the usual shopping complex, restaurant, lounges and cafeterias, the 168 metre ferry has a functions suite for 180 people.

Heads attack all parties' policies

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The education policies of all the main parties were criticized at the National Association of Head Teachers' conference yesterday.

Although the Conservative proposals were criticized most strongly — for aiming at a divisive system with no promise of more funding for education — the other two political groups fared little better.

Mr David Hart, general secretary, said that although both answered demands for more funds, Labour's policy was "thin" on ideas and the Alliance's was "a dog's dinner".

The head teachers are opposed to the Conservative scheme for schools to opt out of local education authorities, which they see as an attack on local organization and an unwelcome return to what one head called the "incredibly outdated" concept of selection.

Mr Arthur Pendlebury, Green, the treasurer, said that neither a Labour nor a Conservative government had ever legislated for national nursery provision, a key element in the Labour proposals.

He challenged Mr Kinnock: "How can your party have the effrontery to say it will make nursery education available for all three to four-year-olds when the last Labour government could have made that provision almost at the stroke of a pen?"

Mr Hart said later that heads are aware that the Conservatives would be most likely to recognize their own key role, by giving them more responsibility for management and budgeting and offering them separate pay negotiations.

He added: "But heads are deeply suspicious that they are to be part of a grand plan to keep education spending down and they do not wish to be cut off from their local education authorities."

● Birkbeck, the London University college for part-time students, believes its future has been secured by a £250,000 loan from the university.

CAA forces pace of airline freedom

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An airline which runs mostly charter flights has been given a licence to operate a network of scheduled services out of Gatwick on eight of the busiest routes.

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday formally licensed scheduled air routes through-out Europe by Air Europe, in an attempt to force the pace on greater liberalization of air transport within the European Community.

At the same time it granted five more licences to British Caledonian to fly to Rome, Athens and three cities in Scandinavia.

The granting of the licences will put extra pressure on European transport ministers when they meet in Brussels next month. The ministers are due to agree to relax constraints which limit the number of new airlines that can fly between Britain and European cities.

Although Air Europe and British Caledonian have been licensed by the British authorities, they still need the agreement of the foreign governments involved.

If the talks between the governments are successful, Air Europe plans to begin flying on the eight routes — to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Munich, Geneva and Zurich — by the end of the year.

The company has promised to offer fares at least 15 per cent below those now charged by rival airlines for standard economy and business class seats on the routes, because, it claims, it can reduce operating costs by using its fleet of aircraft for both charter and scheduled operations.

The new services are expected to provide an additional 700 jobs within the airline by next summer.

British Caledonian plans to begin operations next summer, should the talks between European governments prove successful.

It said that its fares will be up to 30 per cent cheaper than existing rates.

Union 'meat monopoly' is attacked

By David Sapsted

A north London meat company yesterday issued a direct challenge to the 50-year-old monopoly of Britain's largest union to appoint its own members to jobs at Smithfield Market.

The company's refusal to take on a union man has led to a two-week closure of its Smithfield outlet and the loss of more than £100,000 in orders, according to AMI manager, Mr Peter Martinelli.

Allied Meat Importers is threatening to run its own lorries into the market tomorrow rather than employ a porter nominated by the Transport and General Workers' Union — traditionally the only way extra staff can be taken on at the country's leading meat market.

The company's refusal to take on a union man has led to a two-week closure of its Smithfield outlet and the loss of more than £100,000 in orders, according to AMI manager, Mr Peter Martinelli.

"We just can't go on losing money this way because of these antiquated, restrictive union practices. Unless we can reach agreement in the next couple of days, we plan to send in our own meat lorries on Sunday with our own work-force, whether union members or not," he said.

The City of London Corporation is prepared to make a multimillion pound investment in refurbishing the Victorian market, but made it clear yesterday that a precondition was that agreement

was reached between the tenants and the union on ending the restrictive practice that left the hiring of porters in the TGWU's hands. A spokesman for the corporation refused to comment on the dispute.

Mr Martinelli said he would ask for police protection for the company's lorries, but Mr Jack Beston, organizer of the union's members at the market, said last night that violence would not be countenanced in any event. The dispute could be settled by negotiation.

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

An embarrassing and potentially damaging dispute has erupted within the National Farmers' Union over the right of the NFU Mutual Insurance Society to retain a virtual monopoly of members' business.

Both Mr Simon Gourlay, the union's president, and Mr David Evans, its chief executive, have intervened to forestall what they see as a serious threat to unity at a time when the industry is under financial pressure and relations are

strained between its various sectors.

The dispute concerns Mr Harold Woolgar, secretary of the union's Isle of Axholm branch in Epworth, South Yorkshire. On Thursday, he was dismissed by the society as its local agent after he admitted forming his own agency and placing business with other companies.

It is standard practice for branch secretaries to be paid only a small salary by the union, which they then supplement with the commission earned on policies taken out with NFU Mutual.

As farming is a high-risk occupation, and as even the smallest farmer employs assets worth hundreds of thousands of pounds — a large arable farm is a multimillion pound enterprise — the sums involved are considerable.

The union's difficulty is that, although it accepts that Mr Woolgar broke the terms of his agreement, he has the support of local branch members and of the Lincolnshire County branch, one of the largest and most influential in the union.

According to Mr Woolgar, only a small amount of busi-

Fury at nuclear waste decision

By Michael Horsnell

A serious deterioration in relations between the Department of the Environment and its independent watchdog on nuclear waste disposal, emerged yesterday amid claims that the public is being misled on government policy.

Professor John Greening, acting chairman of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, is demanding a meeting with Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to thrash out its future role.

The watchdog committee is furious that it was not consulted by Mr Ridley before he announced on May 1 the government decision to abandon plans to build a shallow, rural dump for low-level nuclear waste at one of four sites in eastern England.

Professor Greening said: "We are aggrieved we were not consulted in advance of the decision. The public should not be misled into believing that there is independent assessment of policy if that independent assessment is not actually occurring. We don't want to be there as a facade. We either have a real role or we cease to exist."

Mr Ridley made the announcement without consultation, within 24 hours of being told by the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (Nirex) that it had revised its economic assessment of disposal options and wanted a deep repository for all but high level waste.

The watchdog committee was established in 1978 in response to the 1976 Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which highlighted the lack of coherent government policy on waste disposal. It recommended a halt to expansion of nuclear power until the disposal issue had been resolved.

Professor Greening has been acting chairman since the death of Professor Paul Matthews in a road accident in February. The Secretary of State has yet to announce a successor.

Professor Greening added: "I can only think of two possible reasons why we were not consulted. Firstly, the minister did not value our opinion. That is something we wish to take up with him. Or there was a political advantage in taking a quick decision to abandon investigations into shallow low level sites."

"We were due to meet later in the month the minister made his announcement. As the new deep-level disposal site is not to be available until next century it was unnecessary to have acted so quickly. But these are guesses", he said.

The committee could give independent advice only if it was consulted in advance.

The Department of the Environment declined to comment and said it is awaiting a letter from Professor Greening.

Music academics' chorus of anger

By Mark Ellis

A cacophony of protests against changes at the Royal Academy of Music will be voiced by staff next week who will propose a vote of no confidence in its principal, Sir David Lumsden.

All 160 academics, including eight professors facing redundancy, have been invited to a meeting on Tuesday to discuss proposals to make the academy more in tune with contemporary tastes.

Enlisting the support and using the names of famous former students such as Simon Rattle, the conductor, Felicity Lott, the opera singer, and John Dankworth, the jazz musician, is one of the campaign planks being considered by disaffected staff.

Professors last night were unwilling to speak publicly about the changes as their contracts bar them from talking to the Press.

But one professor, from the piano department, accused the

academy of "victimization" against established staff, who provide the backbone of the tuition, by replacing them with "glitzy" names.

A threatened walk out by staff and students during an address by Sir David to outline his proposals to cut courses on piano, singing and purely academic studies, in favour of early and modern music, opera and jazz, failed to materialize yesterday.

The academy authorities took comfort when the college lecturers' union voted 29 to 11 against strike action and interpreted the result as a tacit approval because of the number who stayed away when 160 were entitled to vote.

One of those affected, a professor of piano and violin, Miss Jean Harvey, said she faced having her hours cut but believed in what the academy was trying to do, although as a public relations exercise it had been handled badly.

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British Embassy official freed after daylight abduction by armed revolutionary guards

Kidnapped diplomat 'tough enough to survive his ordeal'

"In a strange sort of way," as a European diplomat in Tehran commented yesterday, "Ed-Ed" was the best man to be kidnapped. He is not only a very strong, tall man — he is also very strong psychologically. He is a very tough guy. He will be able to stand up to the trauma of being abducted.

Thirty-six year old Mr Edward Chaplin is indeed a tall man, a towering figure whose tennis playing is reputedly ferocious, but whose non-diplomatic activities include collecting Victorian model soldiers.

He is a homely man, never so at ease as when he is entertaining in his embassy house by a blazing fire with his wife Nicola and his three-year-old daughter Stephanie.

The family's newest baby, Tom, is only seven weeks old and had been ill shortly after his birth in England this spring. His sickness had drawn Mr Chaplin back to Britain for an extra two weeks' leave and he had only just returned to Tehran — where he has been Head of Chancery for two and a half years — to move into his new house in the grounds of the British residence compound at Golhak in the hills north of Tehran.

In one way, it was his change of home that was to be

During the Iraqi air raids on Tehran earlier this year, he would eschew any thought of staying indoors but would instead march into the darkened garden outside his home and stare upwards at the anti-aircraft tracer, as it arced through the night sky.

When two British newspaper correspondents — somewhat unnerved at their imminent visit to the Iranian front-line opposite Basra — called at his home last January to drop off their suitcases while they were away, Mr Chaplin cheerily bid them farewell with the memorable adieu: "Have a good time — hope to see you back here soon." The word "hope" achieved just the chilling effect he had intended.

But if he was able to accept his kidnapping with his customary sang-froid, nothing in his career could have prepared him for it. In 1975, Mr Chaplin served as third secretary at the British Embassy in Oman — surely the safest Arab country in which any Western diplomat could live — and two years later was posted as second secretary to the Embassy in Brussels. He once described his job in Tehran as an adventure, a statement which he might choose to qualify now he has been released.

Fluent in Arabic — he learned the language in the old Foreign Office school at Sherrin just outside Beirut — Mr Chaplin is also a good Persian-speaker who applies his slightly acerbic humour to his reading of the Iranian daily newspapers but who genuinely likes the Iranians and their country.



Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh Basti, chargé d'affaire, speaks to reporters at the Iranian Embassy in London yesterday (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance).

Diplomatic row after Tehran kidnap release

Continued from page 1

British Interests Section of the Swedish Embassy. But throughout Thursday night and early Friday morning, the Swedish Ambassador was unable to raise any Iranian Foreign Ministry official to protest at Mr Chaplin's kidnapping.

Mr Martin Clements, one of Mr Chaplin's colleagues in the British Interests Section, spent much of yesterday morning trying to obtain help from Foreign Ministry officials.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry had earlier complained that Mr Ghassemi was arrested, freed and then re-arrested without explanation by the Manchester police. The British Government, the Ministry said, had provided no justification for the incident which was "against diplomatic regulations and the Vienna Convention" even though the Iranian Embassy in London had demanded his immediate release.

Britain, the Iranian Foreign Ministry claimed, would be held responsible for "this unlawful act". By yesterday afternoon, this curious political demarcation had changed out of all recognition. Within an hour of Mr Chaplin's return home, the Ministry issued another statement, claiming that Mr Ghassemi had been "released". It did not say why he had been arrested in the first place — nor did it give any official explanation for Mr Chaplin's detention.

Mr Chaplin, who was posted to Tehran in January, had been driving from the embassy building in Ferdowsi Street to his new home in the embassy residence compound at Golhak when the revolutionary guards stopped him. He was a well-known figure in the Iranian capital, would have been easily identifiable to his abductors but, in common with other British diplomats, never travelled with bodyguards. Despite the long imprisonment of the American Embassy hostages in Iran after the revolution, Western diplomats generally feel safe in Tehran and are accorded all the benefits of diplomatic immunity.

Mr Chaplin's seizure does bear a curious similarity to the kidnapping last autumn of the senior Syrian diplomat in Tehran, an abduction that is believed to have been carried out by the political enemies of the Islamic Republic, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, and apart from the Ayatollah himself, perhaps the most politically powerful man in the country.

It was Mr Rafsanjani who earlier this year offered to help find Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy who disappeared in Beirut on January 20. The Syrian Embassy official had been driving through Tehran when he was seized by armed men, who were never subsequently identified, and driven away in an ambulance. He was released, like Mr Chaplin, after 24 hours.

Mr Mehdi Hashemi, a man who controlled several pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon and was a supporter of the Ayatollah's chosen successor, Hussein Montazeri, was later held responsible for the abduction: and it was popularly believed in Tehran that the kidnapping was a deliberate attempt to embarrass Mr Rafsanjani who had earlier been involved in the visit to Tehran of Mr Robert McFarlane and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North. Mr Hashemi is now in prison, having confessed to murder during the period of the Shah's regime, but some of his colleagues may well have been behind Mr Chaplin's abduction in a further attempt to embarrass Mr Rafsanjani.

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said last night that it would be "absolutely intolerable" if the abduction of the British diplomat in Tehran turned out to be an Iranian retaliation for the arrest of one of their diplomats in Britain (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

He said that Iran's charge d'affaire, Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh Basti, did not admit to any link when they met at the Foreign Office.

All for 10 socks and a purse

By Ian Smith

It appeared last night that the alleged theft of five pairs of socks and a plastic purse may have led to the kidnapping of Mr Edward Chaplin, the British diplomat.

Vice-consul Mr Ahmed Ghassemi was arrested on May 9 shortly after leaving the Arndale shopping centre in Manchester city centre.

He was charged with stealing the purse from the C and A store and the socks from Mothercare and Burtons. The items were worth £7.55.

The vice-consul was taken to Bostle Street police station where he claimed diplomatic

immunity and was released by police.

Mr Ghassemi was due to return to the city centre police station at 9am on Thursday and at 8am police were waiting outside his house.

He emerged, got into his car and drove off through Manchester suburbs. He was followed and then arrested near Didsbury police station where it is understood he was involved in a struggle with arresting officers.

He was taken to the police station to be kept overnight before appearing in court yesterday.

But police sources say that later that day a telex was received by the Home Office from Tehran saying that Mr Chaplin had been seized and would be shot unless their representative was freed immediately.

Both the Home Office and Greater Manchester Police refused to confirm this but it is known that after city magistrates had adjourned for the day on Thursday, hurried telephone calls were made to two magistrates and a special sitting of the court held at 7pm. The magistrates decided he should be given bail.

The Iranian Embassy claimed yesterday that one of its diplomats had been harassed and tortured by the police in Manchester.

However Mr Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh Basti, chargé d'affaire of the Iranian Embassy, said in London that the alleged incident was not linked with the kidnapping of Mr Edward Chaplin, the British diplomat.

Speaking before the announcement of Mr Chaplin's release, the Iranian diplomat was asked to comment on the arrest of an Iranian envoy on

shopping charges in Manchester this week.

He said: "I should put it another way, the illegal arrest by police in Manchester. It is contrary to all international norms and good relations and contrary to article 43 of the Vienna Convention."

He said documented evidence of the alleged torture, which included kicking on the legs and "places I am ashamed to disclose", was the subject of an official complaint to the Foreign Office.

He repeated that there was no link between the two

diplomatic incidents. "Any kind of wrong behaviour on diplomats anywhere in the world, I deplore."

The Iranian Embassy was officially closed yesterday to observe an Islamic prayerday. Mr Akhond-Zadeh Basti arrived at the building in Prince's Gate, west London, shortly before 1pm in a dark blue Mercedes with diplomatic number plates.

He denied that the Iranian police were behind the kidnapping of Mr Chaplin. "I think that in the next few hours we can expect more on this subject", he said.

Automatic jail sentences urged for crimes against the elderly

By Peter Davenport

A senior police officer yesterday called for automatic prison sentences for all those found guilty of crimes of violence and deception against the elderly.

Mr Frederick Wilson, assistant chief constable of Durham, said such sentences should be considered as part of the action needed to reduce growing numbers of crimes against old people.

He said that automatic prison sentences would act both as a deterrent to those who prey on the elderly and as a reassurance to those who live in daily fear of becoming a victim.

Mr Wilson was speaking at a conference organized by four police forces in the North-east, North Yorkshire, Durham,

Northumbria and Cleveland, which have all experienced heavy increases in crime, with acts of violence against the elderly "the most worrying and frightening".

The seminar, held in Cleveland where crimes against the elderly increased by 31 per cent in two years, was attended by police, Home Office officials and 120 representatives from social services and agencies involved in caring for the aged.

Mr Wilson also said that although £100 million was spent last year on providing legal aid for those accused of crimes there was no system to provide financial help for those victims wanting to pursue actions for compensation. That too should be considered.

He suggested that courts should investigate the financial circumstances of victims as well as the means of those convicted, when considering possible compensation.

Mr Wilson said that although statistics would argue that the old, as well as the very young, were among those groups least likely to become victims of crime, they were less able to defend themselves. The effects when they were attacked or robbed could be severe, physically and psychologically.

Offences of deception and fraud against old people were particularly despicable, with many losing their entire life savings. Official figures hid the real scale of the problem, because many victims were afraid of public ridicule by

admitting they had been taken in by a bogus official, often posing as a representative of gas or electric boards or local councils.

Short, sharp and automatic prison sentences for such offences would act as a deterrent.

The conference, which also detailed advice for the elderly in protecting themselves and their property, was told that the Home Office would soon issue a booklet on how they can avoid becoming victims of crime.

The four police forces who jointly organized yesterday's conference are to study suggestions made by delegates to see if initiatives can be launched to help to cut back the growing crime figures.

Waite still alive says church

By Clifford Longley

The common thread of all reports from the Middle East concerning Mr Terry Waite is that he is still alive, a spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said yesterday.

The archbishop had "an enormous network" of "contacts in the region, and he and his staff had heard nothing to suggest otherwise."

The spokesman was commenting on reports in the Press, which claimed that senior Church of England figures believed Mr Waite was dead.

Lambeth Palace staff were said to be aware of no senior church figure who believed that.

Woman's death is linked to the pill

A woman died from a blood clot probably caused by a contraceptive pill, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr John Guthrie, a pathologist, said that Pamela Ann Ibbett, aged 24, had died from a blood clot in a vein caused by the presence of oestrogen, which is found in the pill.

Mr Tim Milligan, the mid-Hampshire coroner, said that he had discussed the case with a gynaecologist, who described it as "rank bad luck".

The inquest was told that Miss Ibbett, a personal assistant at Morgan Grenfell in the City, did not suffer from any serious illness but towards the end of last year had complained of breathlessness.

Mrs Rosemary Angel, her

Heart man collapses in cell

A heart transplant patient collapsed in a court cell yesterday minutes after his lawyer said that he could die if not freed to continue vital medical treatment.

Mr Terrence Cox, aged 44, a musician and song-writer, arrested after a drugs raid at a Bayswater house, was taken by ambulance to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, under police guard, after the incident at Marylebone Court.

His lawyer had said: "I understand that unless he has the opportunity to attend regularly at Harefield Hospital for the treatment he requires there is the possibility that he will die."

But the magistrate, Mr Quentin Campbell, told Mr Cox: "It is with great regret that I feel unable to grant you bail."

Miss Belinda Pearce, for the prosecution, had not objected to bail with conditions.

Mr Cox is charged with carrying 67.2 grams of cocaine worth about £4,000 with intent to supply, on May 27. He is further charged with having 3.51 grams of the drug on December 23 1982, and failing to appear at court on March 1, 1984.

Mr Cox, who had his heart transplant operation at Harefield almost a year ago, had been due at the hospital on Thursday. His lawyer explained that he had to have special drugs, stick to a strictly controlled diet and have weekly blood tests.

Detective sent for trial on secrets charge

A detective accused of illegally taking secret information from the police national computer was yesterday committed on bail for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Det Constable Kenneth White, aged 37, of Watkinson Road, Holloway, north London, is charged under the Official Secrets Act with passing on details of criminal records and car numbers to a former private detective, Mark Malloy, of Battersea,

Judge warns of 'liquid gold'

A judge said yesterday that a new drugs craze among teenagers could lead to murder.

Judge Hazan urged Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to take action to stop the over-the-counter sale of the drug amyl nitrate.

He was speaking at the Central Criminal Court after sentencing a shop assistant, aged 19, to five years' youth custody, when he admitted attempting to murder his schoolgirl lover, aged 14, and having unlawful sexual intercourse with her.

An order was made prohibiting any identification of the victim.

The youth had been sniffing amyl nitrate shortly before he slashed the girl's throat, stabbed her in the neck, chest and arms and then attempted suicide by cutting his wrists. She had ended their affair on the order of her parents, the court was told.

The judge revealed that amyl nitrate is freely available at sex shops and is known as "liquid gold".

The drug is widely used as a

sex stimulant, producing rapid heartbeats.

"It can enhance and intensify any feelings, good or bad and produces a sense of power in those who take it," the judge said.

He told the court that the National Campaign Against solvent abuse had warned of the dangers and added: "I want to draw the Home Secretary's attention to that sales can be regulated and controlled."

The oily secret of Dagenham exports

By Andrew Morgan

Britain, not normally known for its Mediterranean climate, has become one of Europe's leading exporters of olive oil.

In February alone this rain-swept land exported 28,000 tonnes of golden olive pressings.

Sadly, this was not the result of a torrid summer in Dagenham, east London, the centre of the trade. The reality is that continental merchants are exploiting an EEC loophole by exporting bulk olive oil from Spain to the UK and then immediately re-exporting it to Italy, where there is a shortage.

One insider told *The Times* yesterday how the trade chain starts in Malaga, where ships of up to 8,000 tonnes are loaded with olive oil.

It is then taken to the Thames Terminal at Dagenham where it is unloaded and kept in tanks for 24 hours, to cover EEC regulations. The oil is then shipped out to Italy.

The tanks are close to the Ford car factory and are said to have covered the Dagenham vicinity with a well-known Mediterranean odour.

A few British brokers are thought to benefit from the clandestine trade. But insiders suggest middle men in the southern Mediterranean, particularly in Marseille, are taking most from the new oil web.

Some sources suggest the Italians are bottling the Spanish oil, which is generally cheaper and poorer quality, putting on "Produce of Italy" labels and then exporting it to fool the food enthusiasts of California.

The European triangle grew

after Spain joined the EEC last year. Taxes are higher for shipping the oil directly from southern Spain to Italy. Last November, sterling's fall against EEC currencies combined with lower levies for oils shipped via the UK made the triangle a profitable network.

The trade office said: "We also have no evidence that Spanish oil is being bottled and passed off as Italian produce."

British Customs officials were also in the dark about the Dagenham operation, as was the EEC Commission in London. But a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said: "The trade in olive oil is being distorted because of monetary compensation allowances."

"Some people will be making money but, to be honest, it's a bit complex to say just how."

than its trees could produce. However, the Italian trade office in London, yesterday had no knowledge of the olive oil emanating from Dagenham.

The trade office said: "We also have no evidence that Spanish oil is being bottled and passed off as Italian produce."

British Customs officials were also in the dark about the Dagenham operation, as was the EEC Commission in London. But a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said: "The trade in olive oil is being distorted because of monetary compensation allowances."

"Some people will be making money but, to be honest, it's a bit complex to say just how."

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Sri Lanka seeks tanks to help army root out rebel Tamil strongholds

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

As 3,000 Sri Lankan troops battled for the fourth day yesterday to regain control of a strip of territory in the north-east of the Jaffna peninsula, a military official disclosed that the Government was negotiating to buy light tanks.

The Government's official spokesman, Professor Tilak Ratnakara, said that the army had not yet fully occupied the town of Velvetiturai. The two principal columns of troops advancing towards each other to encircle the Vadamatchchi island also had still not made contact.

It was clear, however, that the troops, in two brigades were now dominating the area, something which they have not done for almost two years.

The brigades have suffered further casualties from mines and booby traps, the spokesman said. Another four soldiers died in the past 24 hours.

Professor Ratnakara admitted that 20 civilian bodies had been found by the forces, but the Tamil exile organizations in south India claimed yesterday that 1,000 civilians have been killed.

Reacting to the growing account of civilian deaths and to a visit from the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. G.

Ramachandran, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister issued a fierce statement calling for a halt to what he described as "the calculated slaughter of thousands of Sri Lankan citizens by their own government".

Mr Gandhi urged the international community to "impress on the Sri Lankan authorities the imperative need for restraint".

Perhaps fearing possible Indian intervention, and also to give themselves an added weapon against the well dug-in separatist rebels the Sri Lankans are negotiating to buy tanks, according to a senior official.

Reports from Jaffna suggest that as much as three-quarters of the population of the town has moved away from the once busy centre to more rural areas, hoping to escape what is seen as an inevitable military assault through the narrow streets.

The townspeople's fear has been encouraged by probing attacks by the Sri Lankan Army based in the old Dutch fort which have overthrown at least one of the big earthworks built recently by the separatist Tamil guerrillas, together with bombing and strafing of some of the city's buildings.

It is also the view of a number of observers in Colombo that the assault on the town is inevitable because of its symbolic value to the Government and armed forces.

However, the minister who is largely responsible for the armed forces, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, insists that at present his task is much more limited. He said that the strikes in Jaffna were only diversionary, and that the present objective was to secure the Vadamatchchi division, which is the heartland of the leaders of the largest rebel group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Having taken Vadamatchchi, Mr Athulathmudali indicated, there would be a pause, while each side considered its next move.

It seems likely that the armed forces would regroup in preparation for a new stage in their bid to control the peninsula. The Tamil rebels will also regroup, and will no doubt look to India for assistance in doing so.

The Sri Lankan Government expects that the pause will also give time for the rebels to make an overture for peace.



South Korea's leading spycatcher, Superintendent-General Park Cho-won (left) and two of his senior staff, Yu Jong-bang (centre) and Park Won-taek (right) who have been arrested in connection with the death of a student.

Seoul students riot over 'torture' case

Seoul (Reuters) — About 10,000 students demonstrated across South Korea in protest at a police cover-up over the torture and killing of a student activist in January.

Witnesses said thousands of riot police cordoned off a park in central Seoul as student leaders called for a major rally.

Elsewhere in the capital hundreds of radical students hurled tear-gas battled with police.

The protests flared up after the government announced the arrest of the nation's leading spycatcher, and two other senior police officers. The three allegedly conspired to minimize the reported number of police involved in the killing.

Witnesses said the protesters, accusing the government of regularly torturing dissidents, demanded the resignation of President Chun Doo-hwan.

They called on him to

reverse his decision to shelve electoral reforms until after the Seoul Olympics next year, by which time President Chun's successor will have been chosen by an electoral college.

State prosecutors told reporters yesterday that the head of an anti-communist police unit, Superintendent-General Park Cho-won, and two of his staff, had admitted ordering two police officers to take sole responsibility for the killing.

The prosecutors said Park Choong-chol was suffocated when his throat was crushed against the rim of a bathtub while being questioned.

The superintendent-general and his colleagues were charged with protecting criminals and neglecting their duty.

Because of the scandal President Chun this week fired the Prime Minister, three other top Cabinet ministers, the national police chief and the head of intelligence.

Goa delay as former leader dies

Goa (Reuters) — Celebrations marking the accession to Indian statehood of the former Portuguese colony of Goa were postponed after the death of the former prime minister, Mr Charan Singh.

Officials said Goa would still formally become India's 25th state last night, and that the new governor and ministers would be sworn in today as planned.

Obituary, page 10

Poison wine

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Three men have been arrested after more than 30 people died and nearly 500 were poisoned after drinking wine adulterated with methanol at a factory in the Chinese town of Nanning.

Parole denied

Soledad, California (Reuters) — Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, has been denied parole for the ninth time by the California Board of Prison Terms.

Paper blast

Bangkok (AFP) — An explosion rocked the printing plant of the Daily Mirror newspaper here, but no injuries were reported.

Police pay

Lima (AP) — The Government has ordered pay rises for Peruvian police, who staged a four-day strike last month.

Fiji 'almost back to normal'

Ganilau plea for end of food ban

Suva (Reuters) — Fiji's Governor-General, declaring the country almost back to normal after the military coup, yesterday urged Australian and New Zealand unions to lift a trade embargo threatening food supplies.

The official Consumers Council said supplies of imported fresh vegetables would last no more than a week, while wheat stocks are so low that supermarkets are rationing purchases of flour to one 4lb packet per customer.

The Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, told reporters that he had met the Australian and New Zealand ambassadors here to urge them to do everything possible to get the trade embargoes lifted.

Australian and New Zealand shipping unions banned the export of goods to Fiji in protest against the May 14 overthrow of the left-leaning coalition of Dr Timoci Bavadra.

In the aftermath of the coup, the first in a Pacific state, the country's vital tourist industry has been crippled, and protests against the takeover have delayed harvesting of sugarcane. Sugar and tourism are Fiji's two main foreign exchange earners.

The main protests have been in the west of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, the stronghold of Dr Bavadra.

Dr Bavadra's administration gave Indians a majority in government for the first time since independence from Britain in 1970.

Fiji's population of 714,000 is almost equally divided between indigenous Fijians, who own most of the land, and the Indians who came here in the last century to work on the sugar plantations. Indians now control much of the business.

Ratu Ganilau said Fiji was now calm and had almost returned to normal. He described the arrest on Thursday of three leading Indians, including the ousted Finance

Minister, Mr Mahendra Chaudhry, as an "isolated case."

He had ordered their release as soon as he heard about the incident, he said.

Sir Vijay Singh, the chief executive of the Sugar Cane Growers' Council, told reporters he was arrested at gunpoint and accused of holding meetings to discuss the protest closure of shops and schools. He said the allegation was totally untrue.

The Governor-General yesterday promoted the coup leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, to the rank of full colonel and head of the country's 2,700-strong Army.

Ratu Ganilau has also granted Colonel Rabuka an amnesty for his action in staging the coup.

The Government issued a statement yesterday saying that Fiji was being run by the Governor-General and his interim group of advisers, and that it was therefore incorrect to call it a "military regime."

Ratu Ganilau has promised new elections within six months, but he said yesterday it could take longer. Colonel Rabuka has said he believes the state of emergency will last 16 months, and wants the constitution changed to favour the ethnic Fijians.

"It is my aim to get back parliamentary rule as soon as possible. How long it will take is difficult to say," Ratu Ganilau said.

He believed it was now safe for foreign tourists to return to Fiji. The United States, Australia and New Zealand have advised their nationals to stay away, and troops in battle fatigues are still on the streets of Suva.

Ratu Ganilau said the troops would be withdrawn gradually. "Their main task now is to make sure that there is no break down in law and order, and to protect the people as well as their property," he added.

Mandate battle splits Brazilian Congress

From Mac Margolis, Brasilia

A fortnight after the Brazilian President threw down the gauntlet, declaring he would stay in power for five years, Congress is still haggling over the question, and the President's own party is split.

Though Congress has the final word on the mandate, Senator Jose Sarney upstaged legislators two weeks ago when he announced his intention to leave office only in 1990. A major block of Congress and a solid majority in opinion polls have called for an abbreviated four-year term with presidential elections next year.

The rift appears to have worked in favour of Senator Sarney, at least for now. Since his speech, several Government officials who publicly favoured a shorter mandate have been let go. The Minister of Agrarian Reform quit in protest and a federal tax inspector, allied with the "progressives", was fired half an hour after he swore the oath of office.

Senator Ulysses Guimarães, the Party President, mustered Conservatives behind the President for a battery of meetings at his palatial residence here.

At the same time, left-leaning members of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) have huddled around the powerful São Paulo senator, Senator Mario Covas, who has called for a four-year mandate.

The rest of Congress is fractured into more radical factions who call for everything from a mandate of six years to immediate elections for President.

The volatile debate has so far produced more heat than light. Congress has completed a first draft of the new constitution, which establishes a five-year presidential term — but only for Senator Sarney's successor. The controversy is likely to smoulder on for several weeks, but Senator Sarney seems resolved not to wait for the smoke to clear.

So emboldened was the President after his speech that he fiercely defended exorbitant public works projects despite a hail of opposition. Senator Sarney's pet project is the \$2.5 billion north-south railway slicing through a thousand miles of backlands between Brasília and his home state of Maranhão.



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MERCURY ROWAN MULLENS

Pensioners get Labour promise of an £8 rise

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Neil Kinnock set out a package of pledges yesterday designed to woo the retirement vote. He and Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's chief spokesman on health and social security, bitterly attacked the Government's record on pensions.

Labour has been worried by private polls showing its support faltering among the over-55s in the key seats it needs to win to have a chance of power on June 11, and in Norwich yesterday Mr Kinnock and Mr Meacher confirmed that within two years of coming to power Labour would restore in full the link between the rise in average earnings and the rise in pensions.

They said that the Tory Government's breaking of the link in 1980 had resulted in single pensioners losing £7.40 a week and couples £11.40 a week.

They promised that Labour would introduce pension increases of £5 a week for single pensioners and £8 a week for couples immediately on coming into government to begin closing the gap and Mr Kinnock pledged yesterday that it would be fully closed within two years of Labour's obtaining power.

Labour's other promises to pensioners included a £5-a-week winter fuel premium to be paid between mid-December and mid-March to those on low incomes, the abolition of standing charges for gas and electricity and the "phasing in" of free television licences and a nationwide concessionary fares scheme.

Pressed on costs, Mr Kinnock said that the basic pension increases would cost a little under £2 billion a year. That would come out of the £3.6 billion already allocated to the anti-poverty programme. Of the other items, free television licences would cost £340 million and the winter fuel premium £140 million.

The cost of abolishing standing charges would be passed on to other consumers, but it would only be a matter of pence, Mr Kinnock said.

Mr Meacher said that the

cost of making concessionary fares for pensioners a nationwide obligation would be small. Many local authorities already had such schemes and it would be covered by the rate-support grant.

Mr Kinnock said that Labour would launch a nationwide insulation effort to improve housing conditions for the old and would ensure that the death grant adequately covered the cost of a funeral. A Labour government would negotiate with the fuel industries on the abolition of standing charges.

Mr Kinnock said that one in three retirement pensioners lived below supplementary benefit level, 500,000 unit houses were occupied by pensioners and half of all pensioners over 65 suffered from chronic illness.

Mr Meacher said: "Pensioners are worse off now than they were in 1979. According to the Family Expenditure Survey, pensioners living on their own have £3.24 a week less to spend after tax than they had in 1979. So much for Mrs Thatcher's claims that pensioners are getting richer."

"Labour rejects Tory policy which makes billionaires of millionaires and paupers of pensioners."

"The Labour Party will end these ugly and divisive values which demand that the poor be punished by ever harsher poverty while the rich need ever greater tax reliefs to motivate them."

● The anti-poverty element of Labour's priority programme would cost the taxpayer £8 billion, more than twice the declared price of £3.6 billion, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday (our Political Reporter writes).

But Mr Bryan Gould, co-ordinator of the Labour Party election campaign, said that Mr Fowler had misunderstood Labour's commitments. "Mr Fowler has added into the cost a range of other benefits which sometimes move in line with pensions, but do not always do so. We are not including in our priority package these additional items."

Shirley's double act with Rosie

By Alan Hamilton

Shirley Williams sports a yellow rose on her sensible khaki dress. Rosie Barnes is in Alliance gold from blouse down to stockings ankles. They could be a don and her daughter as they plunge about Cambridge in their modest motorcade of yellow Escort and yellow Metro.

Shirley, who has risen at 6.30 am to fly up from Southampton, professes to be undismayed by a poll in this week's *Spectator* which has her trailing third behind Tories and Labour. Rosie, who has caught the train up from London to lend support, has cheering news. "Not one opinion poll predicted I would win Greenwich. And the half-way stage was my worst time in the polls," she says.

In the Escort the entirely unaffected woman once regarded as the wicked witch of comprehensive education reflects upon standing for such an academic seat. "I do encounter from time to time members of the public who didn't like what I did to schools. But the dons don't object to me. They still feel guilty that they did nothing about a speech of mine in 1969 when I listed 13 ways that they could head off a Treasury attack on higher education. Now it has all come true."

She is on a tour of Cambridge welfare organizations, and the first stop is the Citizens Advice Bureau, where the staff tell her that the commonest problem they hear is the credit card that runs out of control.

They talk about high rents and high house prices in Cambridge, which the CAB staff say is the city's biggest social problem. "It makes a nonsense of the 'on your bike' stuff. It means people can't afford to move to new jobs here, or if they can they can't bring their families," says Shirley. She is keen on families, and community, and links.

Community links break down seriously at the next stop, a community centre for the unemployed which has a women-only session on Fridays. Shirley and Rosie go in but the accompanying press corps, all male, is refused entry. As they stand in the street the postman arrives on his bike; he too is made to stand outside while the women find enough change to pay for an unstamped letter.



Time for tea as Mrs Williams and Mrs Barnes take a break (Photograph: John Rogers)

Two women come out and make a video film of the reporters; it is part of a re-training project, they say. They explain that they refused to have the Labour candidate last Friday, because he is a man. The Tory, who is also a man, has so far declined to come on any day of the week. Shirley comes out to explain that several among the 20 women inside are battered wives. "It's a precious oasis," she says.

Next to a community youth project, Rousey Mill, which declares its aim on a hand-out as "to positively discriminate toward the marginalized." It appears to be about scooping up youth teetering towards the

wrong side of the law. Shirley cautions about the Cambridge police policy of giving a caution to young first offenders rather than taking them to court, and says the county crime rate is falling. Her day's programme now falls apart. She is guest at a lunch of local insurance men, an invitation she accepted before the election. She makes a brief non-political speech about the value of community links, and then has to endure windy addresses by other guests.

Her programme is in ruins, so she goes to the railway station to see Rosie on her train and to shake a few hands. She is greeted with universal

politeness and warmth; the Shirley factor is at work.

But then the Shirley factor breaks down. She meets a little girl called Katie, who is prompted by her mother to say whom she would most like to vote for. "Neil Kinnock," says Katie with a giggle, departing radically from the script. "I thought you were going to vote for David Owen because he splashed his baby so nicely in the bath," scolds Katie's mother.

That's what Shirley and the Cambridge Alliance are. Nice. But as Baroness Sear remarked of Neil Kinnock the other day, niceness alone is not enough, even when hiring a cook.

ELECTION SUMMARY

Ridley spells out plan for council housing

Council tenants will be asked to take part in ballots if there is a proposal to change the ownership of the blocks in which they live under the new Conservative housing plan, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, explaining the manifesto proposals to give tenants the right to ask other institutions like building societies to be their landlords, said that unless the majority objected the transfer would take place.

Those who lost the ballot but still wanted to remain council tenants could do so because the new landlord would sublet back to the council those flats which did not want to transfer, Mr Ridley said.

His amplification of the manifesto proposals led Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's campaign coordinator, to declare yesterday that the Conservative housing plan was "almost as great a mess" as their education proposals.

Gas prices 'will soar' Party gag denied

Charges for gas and electricity would soar if Labour came to power, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

He told a meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne that Labour's plans to eradicate nuclear power would not only lose 150,000 jobs but would also mean a "roaring increase in electricity prices."

He added: "They intend to re-nationalize gas so that once again a Labour Chancellor can use increased gas prices as a means of taxation."

Mrs Glenys Kinnock denied yesterday that she had been "gagged" by the Labour Party or "packaged" for the election campaign.

She described as ridiculous suggestions that she was the power behind the Labour leader and was pushing him to the left.

The idea that she was the "power behind the throne" was put about by male journalists who had failed to "come to terms with the fact that women can have strong views without being harlots."

Welsh call Roses for to Labour Owen

The leader of the Welsh nationalists, Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas, last night urged Mr Neil Kinnock to change his policies and start talks with other parties on an anti-Thatcher alliance.

He told a meeting at Llangefni that a platform to unite the leaderships of the anti-Thatcher forces was needed.

Dr David Owen was showered with yellow roses by children yesterday when he promised "the good life" to the people of Surliton.

The SDP leader wearing a yellow rose boutonhole discussed one of the area's business issues, grammar school education, with Stuart Reid, aged 12, and Ian Leitch, aged 11.

Labour attacks legacy of 'industrial gypsies'

Conservative economic policies have created a nation of industrial gypsies travelling the land in search of work, Mr John Smith, Labour's spokesman on trade and industry, said yesterday.

Speaking in Middlesbrough, Mr Smith accused the Government of turning its back on the North-east, where unemployment had more than doubled since 1979. "It is a callous combination of indifference and neglect. We think it's appalling that people in the North-east have got to go to the South for jobs, to leave their families and communities, and be unable to afford to settle in the South when they get there," he said.

"It's crazy to have a nation of industrial gypsies, going up and down the motorways, looking for jobs in the South, when we should be bringing jobs to the people," Labour planned to create almost 30,000 jobs and 22,000 new training places in the North.

Alliance looks to Pardoe as the campaign linchpin

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

In 1964 a young Liberal called John Pardoe came from nowhere to slash Mrs Margaret Thatcher's majority in Finchley, north London, from 16,200 to 8,800.

He achieved that partly because the local golf club had recently been caught red-handed excluding Jews, an issue the Liberals exploited to the full, and partly through organization and work.

Twenty-three years on, Mr Pardoe, now aged 52, is trying again to destroy Mrs Thatcher's majority nationally. He believes failed to give the party any clear sense of direction; at one point he told him to his face to lead or go.

In the 1976 leadership contest against Mr David Steel he was portrayed as the extreme and rather ruthless radical candidate standing against the moderate "nice guy" and, although the activists supported him, rank-and-file Liberal members declined to take the risk.

There were no recriminations. Mr Steel immediately made him his *de facto* deputy. During the Lib/Lab pact of 1977-78 Mr Pardoe, as the

Liberals' economics expert, forced far-reaching changes to Mr Denis Healey's Budget and Mr Steel was devastated when his deputy lost his seat in the 1979 election.

Thereafter Mr Pardoe devoted himself increasingly to business; he is, among other things, managing director of Sight and Sound, a secretarial, word processing and language training firm which runs one of the largest YTS schemes in the country. Had it not been for the formation of the SDP he might again have abandoned politics "for good".

Mr Pardoe was close to Dr David Owen. Mr Steel hardly knew him. Mr Pardoe was excited by the idea of the Alliance and began to work successfully behind the scenes to promote it.

On the eve of the 1983 election Mr Steel recruited him as an adviser and he found a shambles.

All those who had planned the campaign had disappeared to their constituencies. There was practically no co-ordination between the Liberals and the Social Democrats.

Dr Owen and Mr Steel asked him to lead the 1987 campaign team three years ago. He has been responsible for almost all aspects of the national, as opposed to constituency, campaign, from fund-raising to advertising to overall strategy. Only policy is outside his remit.

His great achievement has been to get the two parties working as one. Trivial party squabbles have been forgotten. There is one campaign headquarters and joint press conferences.

Pardoe, gravely-voiced and as charismatic as ever, has been working largely, but not exclusively, behind the scenes.

For the Alliance's Barbican relaunch rally this January its media advisers decided that what was needed to dispel the image of disunity following the autumn defence row.



Mr Pardoe: Success through excellent organization and hard work (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

Only Steel and Owen want Europe in election debate

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

To its undisguised pleasure, the European Community had been studiously ignored on the hustings until yesterday. Then Mrs Thatcher replied to Labour charges that the EEC would force the United Kingdom to increase VAT.

She said that Britain would use its veto to prevent the EEC changing Community law to restrict Britain's right to decide which goods to zero-rate.

It is the first election since Britain half-heartedly joined the Six (as they were until 1973) in which no xenophobic impulses have been dumped on Brussels.

Basking in anonymity, the occupants of the Berlaymont, the idiosyncratically shaped HQ of the European Commission, had dared to hope that never again would they be a British election issue.

None of the main parties now wants to pull up the Channel drawbridge. None has sought to use the EEC's undeniable shortcomings as a vehicle for bashing foreigners. The Alliance wears its European credentials with pride.

No one will ever know how many votes Labour lost in 1983 through its manifesto pledge to negotiate a phased withdrawal from the EEC. Even Mr Michael Foot must have guessed it was a loser. The 1987 manifesto declares:

"Labour's aim is to work constructively with our EEC partners." Constructively, perhaps, but one senses not very enthusiastically. European matters rate only a single paragraph.

Mrs Thatcher seems to have changed little in substance but more in style over four years. The personal indignation she

much-spurned proposals for solving the budget crisis.

Rather surprisingly the Conservatives have given manifesto space to the very important and desperately dull subject of Europe's efforts to create a genuine common market, without mentioning that the 1992 target for its completion could also be the next election year.

THE EEC

exuded in 1983 over the injustice of Euro-taxes was replaced with satisfaction following her victory the following year.

By last year the glow had begun to fade, with the European Commission trying to pass the hat for additional subs. The Prime Minister has consistently refused to pay, arguing that Brussels should cut costs by curbing the profligate Common Agricultural Policy. On this sole issue Labour pretty much agrees with her, although neither party spells it out in their manifestos. Neither has chosen to make much of the budget.

The Alliance sounds more sympathetic to M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, and his

Political cooperation, which really means coordination of the foreign policies of the 12, generates some interest at all party headquarters. Labour says it would reverse some of Sir Geoffrey Howe's stunts, notably on South Africa. But that it would make much difference, because the West Germans would probably block the introduction of EEC mandatory comprehensive sanctions even if the Thatcher-Howe team was not there to help.

The Alliance offers a genuinely different approach coupled with up-front enthusiasm for all things European. Given that Mr Roy Jenkins had his conceptual SDP thoughts while doing the job that Mr Delors does now, this comes as no surprise. A party spokesman said it would seek the evolution of a common European foreign policy — a venture which might be compared with trying to climb a bull's mountain on a hot day.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Labour had what seemed to me another effective party election broadcast on Thursday evening. It was effective partly because it was again a technically accomplished production, but still more because the subject was well chosen.

Health is the Government's weak spot in this election. To many Conservatives this is perplexing. They point to the increased expenditure in real terms on the NHS, to an expanded hospital building programme, to the greater number of patients treated and to the reduction in waiting lists. Why, they ask plaintively, are our achievements not appreciated?

The answer is that they are mistaking the nature of the charge against them. Of course there are the grumbles about hospital closures, waiting for treatment and inadequate resources. There probably always will be, whoever forms the government and however much money is spent. The demand for health care is unlimited and can never be satisfied.

But what is really damaging for the Conservatives is the widespread belief that their heart is not in the health service. The public want strong defences and good health care. But a great many people believe that while Mrs Thatcher spends money on defence because she wants to, she spends money on health because she has to.

That may be very unfair. But the politician who waits for absolute fairness is in the wrong game. It is impressions that count in politics, and this impression will be destructive for the Conservatives — probably not in this election because their overall position is so strong, but later on if it is not changed.

It is not only committed opponents of the Government who share this misgiving. I have heard people in this campaign who state emphatically that they will vote Conservative, who approve of Mrs Thatcher's emphasis upon competitive efficiency, who believe in reward for enterprise, but who none the less do not have confidence in the Conservatives on health. These are respectable Tories who regard Mrs Thatcher as generally good for the country "but a bit too hard".

Labour candidates claim that they find a ready response when they throw in the final condemnation of their opponents — "and they don't use the NHS themselves anyway". To my surprise I have even heard some Conservatives say that they don't much approve of private medicine either.

This does not mean that there is any need for restrictions upon private health care, nor I believe any serious demand for such a course. But these comments do point to the political requirement for the Conservatives of a more convincing commitment to the NHS.

They have had some bad luck. Conventional medical wisdom has called for more larger hospitals to replace smaller ones and for a more even spread of health care resources around the country. But while this may be medically wise it is politically risky.

People are more likely to feel indignant about local hospitals closing than grateful for more distant hospitals opening. Convenience matters more than the planners appreciate for the majority of patients.

Spreading resources more fairly is absolutely correct in principle, but the trouble is that the areas which lose are more likely to notice than those which benefit. For the exercise to be politically acceptable a little more money has to be spent so that the process becomes simply one of levelling up.

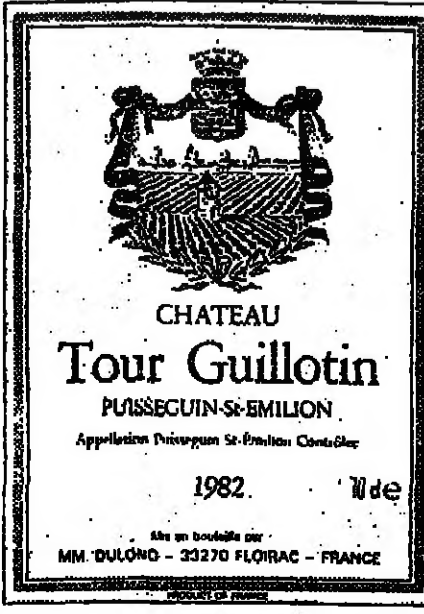
If this were a closer election than it seems to be, health would be a possibly critical issue for the Conservatives. As it is, Labour is making a correct political judgement in hammering away on the subject as much as possible.

For the longer term the Conservatives face the task of persuading the country that they have a concept of health care which fits into the pattern of the Thatcherite revolution.

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ELECTION '87 X

Campaign strain begins to show on a tetchy Kinnock

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The strain began to show on Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday. With indications that Labour was slipping in the opinion polls under the relentless attacks on its defence policies by the Conservatives and the Alliance, Mr Kinnock snapped tetchily at reporters during a press conference in Norwich which he had hoped to confine to the subject of pensions.

He was particularly sensitive over his surprise trip to Liverpool, slipped into the programme at

short notice yesterday without the normal advance notice.

Labour's key election television broadcast, the much praised film portrait of Mr Kinnock, highlighted his attack on the Liverpool Militants.

The last-minute insertion of the Liverpool trip in his programme yesterday enabled him to claim that he had not ducked the challenge of a visit to Merseyside while leaving Militant no time to embarrass him. But no chances were taken.

There was a heavy police pres-

ence during the half-hour he spent at the Crofton Hall Old Folk's Day Care Centre in one of the leafier streets of the Mossley Hill constituency.

But there was not a demonstrator in sight, and if there were any aged revolutionaries among the centre's clientele they were keeping their copies of *Militant* tucked well under the cushions.

Earlier in the day in Norwich, when Mr Kinnock was asked by a television reporter if it was fear of Militant reaction that had led to the Liverpool visit's being put into his programme so suddenly, he

snapped: "You ought to take a doctorate in the irrelevant".

When a *Sun* reporter asked him how Labour would counter fears among pensioners about rising inflation under a Labour government, Mr Kinnock said sharply: "Pensioners could only believe that if people like your newspaper told them that. There isn't going to be an increase in inflation."

When asked about the first opinion polls suggesting that Labour's early progress had been halted and that the Conservative lead was increasing, Mr Kinnock's exasperation showed again and he

complained that reporters were refusing to pay attention to the party's chosen agenda of pensions.

On the evidence of two days with Mr Kinnock's campaign, the accusation that he has been ducking interrogation is unfair.

Mr Kinnock did not avoid questions yesterday either from journalists or from a panel of pensioners in a cottage community in Norwich. If anything, he over-answered. But with the press he was tetchy and authoritarian, resenting any attempt to change the subject from the one he and his

party managers had selected for the day.

He seems to think he can make genuine election issues go away simply by being rude to journalists who ask about them.

It is a pity, because that is not the real Neil Kinnock. And as Mrs Thatcher proves almost every day, by first inviting questions on her chosen topic and opening out later to allcomers, it is perfectly possible to satisfy both sides.

In an otherwise impeccably run campaign, it seems strange that none of Mr Kinnock's team has thought of that.

In the trenches with Labour

By Allan Massie

Mr Neil Kinnock is not easy to interview, as Jonathan Dimbleby discovered on "This Week". Despite Mrs Thatcher's charge that "calculated silence is the basis of Labour's campaign", he never stopped talking. Since Mr Dimbleby is also fond of his own voice, both were off-balance, babbling away simultaneously.

Mr Dimbleby directed his questioning to Labour's defence policy. This discussion centred on nuclear weapons, but battle was being conducted like the defence of Verdun. "Is ne passeront pas," Mr Kinnock seemed to say, as he improvised and shifted his ground without

MEDIA WATCH

yielding his point. Defence may be Labour's weak point, but Mr Kinnock is not abandoning his trench.

Away from defence, would Mr Kinnock restore rights of secondary picketing. Yes, it was in the manifesto, and did Mr Dimbleby know that Winston Churchill had supported this right because the relative strength of employers and unions required it?

Mr Kinnock kept cool under bombardment. He even raised a few smiles. But his face was straight when he said he was completely happy with all his Labour candidates: "There is no man standing for Parliament who has been more thoroughly assessed than Pat Wall." The interminable warfare in the Labour party is suspended for the duration, not for the election.

The education of Mr Kinnock has been a picture of this election. "America" he said, "will act from its own self-interests." He is quite right: nations always do in the end. In his view the self-interest of Britain demands that we get rid of nuclear weapons. We shall see which party leader has best judged the way the British people see their self-interest.

Meanwhile, if Mr Kinnock's education progresses, poor Mr Hattersley's has been arrested. The other Dimbleby (who is having a very good election) tried to make him see some contradiction between attacking the Tories for not having, in his opinion, really cut taxes, and advocating higher public expenditure. Either Mr Hattersley did not listen to the question or he did not understand it.

However, I may be at fault in saying he has learnt nothing. He seemed at one moment to be invoking Reaganomics, saying he would not restore higher marginal rates of tax, but would cut allowances "as Mr Reagan has done". The world has certainly moved when Mr H speaks approvingly of the grand old trumper.

Union 'mob rule' under Labour, Owen predicts

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Labour government would shackle the police and allow mob rule by the unions, handing over the streets to "Arthur Scargill and anybody else's private armies", Dr David Owen said last night.

Speaking on a comment by Mr Neil Kinnock that Labour would scrap legislation banning secondary picketing, the SDP leader told a rally in Plymouth that Mr Kinnock "would have to handcuff the police".

"We need to remind ourselves of how ugly the miners' dispute was and how craven Mr Kinnock's position was", he said.

In an attempt to reverse the Alliance's poor poll ratings, Dr Owen abandoned the measured language of his earlier campaigning and said that Mr Kinnock's remarks during Thames Television's *This Week* programme, meant "the police, faced with picketing that turned to violence, would know that those involved would escape criminal liability under Labour".

Moreover, he added: "Mr Kinnock would rob employers and their customers and their suppliers of any opportunities to defend themselves through the courts against the commercial losses of secondary picketing."

Dr Owen moved swiftly on to the offensive in the expectation that the Conservatives will in the next few days switch their attack from Labour's defence policies to its plans to scrap the Government's union legislation. In doing so he hopes to establish a clear Alliance stance on the issue rather than

be dragged along in the Tory slipstream.

His speech was clearly designed to attract wavering Tory supporters. He says that Mrs Thatcher has "a personal hostility to trade unionism" which made constructive partnership impossible, but he also emphasized the Alliance's own record in supporting Government legislation designed to "restore unions to their members".

On occasions it had criticized the Government for not going far enough. It regretted that the Government had not used the criminal law against violent picketing "even though the Alliance urged its use after the savage Orgreave picketing".

Broadening his attack, Dr Owen decried the politicization and polarization of defence, the trade unions, and the police.

He said that politicians had a duty to seek common ground on these issues. "The tragedy today is that one does not sense either with Labour or the Conservatives the readiness or even the desire to seek, let alone build, such common ground."

Earlier, in Carshalton, Surrey, Dr Owen said it was a tragedy that unions had been "so led astray by hubris and desire for power as to cause fear in the hearts of the very people they purported to represent".

The Alliance defended the powers of the unions to defend the legitimate interests of their members, but was "strongly committed" to legislation assuring their internal democracy.

It would introduce a framework of law incorporating most of the Government's reforms as well as compulsory postal ballots for executive elections, financial aid towards the cost of ballots and computerized membership lists as well as a statutory right to trade union recognition after a majority vote.

● The Conservatives accused Mr Kinnock yesterday of showing the white flag again, this time to the unions (the Press Association reports).

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Employment, made the accusation in response to the Labour leader's speech on the secondary picketing laws.

"It clearly is not just foreign aggression to which Mr Kinnock would show the white flag", Mr Clarke said. "For last night it became clear that Mr Kinnock has capitulated to his union paymasters as well."

Mr Clarke said that Labour also intended to end the legal requirement for secret ballots to be held before strikes and for the election of union executives.

"That might please the militants in the union movement", he said. "I don't believe for one moment that it will please the vast majority of union members who have welcomed our reforms."

"They value their rights to have a real say in how their union is run, even if Mr Kinnock does not."

Mr Clarke said that all union members who wanted to see their unions run democratically would regard Labour's manifesto as "poison".



Mr Kinnock looking through press cuttings on his aircraft trip to Norwich yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

SAVINGS OF THE DAY

● I am sorry about the cold... The one who gave it to me won't be getting any pocket money this week - Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour leader.
● The fight is very much on for the nature of British society - Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP.
● What is clear is that if a power, having nuclear weapons, was to use those to blackmail us... we would have no option but to surrender or to allow our troops to be totally destroyed - Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party Chairman.

● It will be the most radical Labour Government since 1945. The Government built the health service and restored employment. That is what the next Labour Government will do - Ken Livingstone, Labour candidate at Brent East.
● Pensioners today are Mrs Thatcher's forgotten generation - Mr Michael Meacher, Labour spokesman on health and social security.
● We are confident that... Labour local authorities are very well respected - Mr Bryan Gould, Labour coordinator.

Consultants blamed for hospital waiting lists

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen blamed consultants yesterday for the long hospital waiting times and said that health authorities should be more widely exposed to market disciplines.

The SDP leader's comments came against the background of private polls showing the public still has a hazy idea of the coalition's policies.

He was commenting on an Alliance plan to cut waiting times for hospital treatment by setting up an internal market. Patients would be given the right to shop around for treatment in consultation with their general practitioners by stepping outside health district boundaries.

Health authorities would be encouraged to exchange hospital services to speed up treatment, and family doctors and their patients would be able to track down vacancies using computerized data. The cross-referrals would mean money changing hands between health authorities. A district with a long waiting time in certain specialties would buy hospital services from others with spare capacity.

Dr Owen said: "A lot of the problem with waiting lists cannot be explained just by a lack of money. Quite often you will have a single consultant coming into a district health authority where there is a large waiting list."

All to play for in a robust inner-city contest

The rich and varied life forms that flourish in Islington, north London, are reflected in the posters covering every spare inch of wall along the bustling streets.

Black self-awareness courses and Asian cultural centres; single-parent family seminars and gay workshops; pacifists, anarchists, radical bicyclists (objectives unexplained).

A five-minute walk takes you from pricey antique shops and elegant Georgian squares full of media folk to raucous street markets and tough council estates. In short, a highly diverse, vigorous slice of inner city London, with all the usual problems and pressures, including registered unemployment of about 19 per cent; hardly surprising that it produced a knife-edge finish in 1983, or that the battle this time is turning out to be decidedly robust.

Much of the heat is generated by the strident claims of Conservatives and Alliance to represent the only realistic

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Islington S.

CANDIDATES
C. Smith (Lab)
G. Cunningham (SDP/All)
A. Mitchell (C)
P. Powell (Gm)

1981 % Own occ	12.1
1981 % Loc Auth	64.9
1981 % Black/Asian	11.8
1981 % Mid C	47.4
1981 % Prof man	13.6
1986 electorate	59,268
1983 General Election: Smith, C (Lab) 13,402; Cunningham, G (SDP) 13,087; Johnson, A (C) 9,894; Donegan, J (NF) 341; Murphy, J (UFF) 102; Stamford, D (BNP) 94; Stepper, C (SPGB) 85. Net 368.	

chance of defeating Labour's Mr Chris Smith.
Having come so close four years ago, the Alliance naturally argues that voting for Mr George Cunningham again is

nounced as hard-left influence.

An experienced politician, Mr Cunningham is running on his record of previous service to constituents and his conviction that Islington's traditional working class voters have had a taste of the antics of their supposedly "loony-left" council.

On the basis of recent local elections and current canvassing returns, Mr Cunningham maintains, it is clear that voters accept the Alliance as the true alternative to Labour.

Islington South Conservatives will have none of that, pointing gleefully to the recent Harris poll which indicates that they have leaptfrogged into second place.

"This dramatic surge confirms that supporting us is the way to reject Labour extremism," says Mr Andrew Mitchell, barrister who was also deputy opposition leader in Haringey council.

Tory canvassers report that the "loony-left" factor does

not seem to count for much in solidly working class areas and the main thrust of Mr Mitchell's campaign revolves around familiar exhortations to give Mrs Margaret Thatcher the chance to consolidate policies "which have restored Britain's prestige in the world".

According to Mr Smith, the Harris poll's cheering news was not totally unexpected because Labour's canvassing returns were already showing a strong swing against the Alliance.

"We decided long before the date was announced to fight Islington South on national issues, and voters clearly agree this is not just a re-run of the local council elections as the Alliance seems to think."

As former chairman of Islington's housing department, Mr Smith, aged 34, knows the area inside out, and Labour says, is acknowledged as a "hard-working and effective constituency MP."

Philip Jacobson

Battling Bills must not dismiss Labour challenge

Enter centre-right Battling Bill, alias Mr William Benyon, millionaire landowner, benevolent squire, convinced Tory wet and, by common consent, one of the nicest and most unpretentious men you could hope to meet.

Enter centre-left Battling Bill, otherwise known as Mr William Rodgers, former Labour minister, one of the founding Gang of Four, now hoping to resume his interrupted parliamentary career by winning Milton Keynes for the SDP.

This is no ordinary constituency. With an electorate of nearly 100,000, it is the second most populous in Britain after the Isle of Wight, and is a quarter as large again as it was at the last general election. It embraces the new town and a whole hinterland of small villages.

Mr Peter Gaskell, the SDP agent, is convinced that it is a two-horse race between the two Bills. But this does less than justice to the Labour campaign, which appears to be

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Milton Keynes

CANDIDATES
W. Benyon (C)
W. Rodgers (SDP/All)
Ms Y. Brownfield-Pope (Lab)
A. Francis (Gm)

1981 % Own occ	48.1
1981 % Loc Auth	46.3
1981 % Black/Asian	3.9
1981 % Mid C	50.5
1981 % Prof man	16.9
1986 electorate	93,502
1983 General Election: Benyon, W (C) 28,181; Nightingale, Mrs J (SDP) 16,658; Thakoor, J (Lab) 13,045; Francis, A (Gm) 494; Rickard, R (BNP) 250. Net 11,522.	

Key: % own occ: proportion owning their homes; % Loc auth: proportion of council tenants; % Black/Asian: proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Mid C: proportion of non-manual workers; % Prof man: professions & higher management

plifying the success of the Conservative philosophy of blending government incentives with private enterprise.

Mr Rodgers' big disadvantage would seem to be that he is very much a newcomer or, as his opponents rather rudely put it, a carpet-bagger. But he claims to have known north Buckinghamshire for many years and is a nationally known figure.

Both Mr Rodgers and Miss Brownfield-Pope are stressing social inadequacies after eight years of Conservative government. Unemployment is surprisingly high at around 14 per cent yet, paradoxically, there is a shortage of skilled workers because there is not enough suitable housing.

A rising tide of crime and vandalism is attributed to boredom among young people and a shortage of policemen. Schools are seriously overcrowded, while the single hospital, which local people had to fight long and hard to

persuade the Government to provide, has had to close several wards because of inadequate resources.

The SDP has said that it regards Milton Keynes as one of its "target" seats. "There is a very strong awareness of the election here and of the significance of tactical voting," Mr Gaskell says.

But it is a very close contest.

It could all depend on which way the Liberals vote. Logically they should choose Mr Rodgers, but the imposition of a candidate from outside conflicts with the recent Liberal tradition of building up grass roots support through local issues.

Mr Martin Minns, the Tory agent, says many Liberals say they will defect to Mr Benyon. But Miss Brownfield-Pope maintains those who support the "peace" movement will be alienated by Mr Rodgers' right-wing views on defence and vote Labour.

John Young

THE TIMES THE FRENCH GAME OF BOULES

The game of Boules, otherwise known as Pétanque, is suitable for all ages, demanding skill rather than physical prowess. It is perfect for playing on the beach or in the garden and will provide many hours of entertainment for all members of the family.

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BARBARISM PROVED

All hostage-taking is despicable, the taking of diplomats as hostages especially so. This is not because the lives placed at risk are more valuable than others. It is because respecting the safety of diplomats — like respecting that of hospital patients in wartime — is a way of making more bearable the inevitable animosities between nations.

Diplomats, and recognized go-betweens such as Mr Terry Waite, are often the first means by which peace or accommodation is reached, since all negotiations, ceasefires and armistices must start somewhere. Harm diplomats, and you harm the means by which peace may be arrived at. In Europe, and throughout much of the rest of the world, diplomatic safety has been respected for centuries. Even the Nazis felt they should do so.

Iran does not. A few days ago President Reagan called that country barbaric. He was rebuked by the timid, and would-be high-minded. Yesterday Iran beat and kidnapped a British diplomat. Could anything have so swiftly justified Mr Reagan's choice of word?

Respect for diplomatic safety was one of the first signs of a reasonably stable, civilized international order emerging in the Middle Ages from the chaos of barbaric times. Yesterday's incident — small though it was against the background of the bigger events happening in the region — was further proof that the Iranian regime is a regression to a primitive state.

The release of Mr Edward Chaplin, Head of Chancery in the British mission in Tehran, within 24 hours, is a matter for relief among his family and the nation. But the government in Iran deserves to be rebuked in the strongest possible terms. Last night, much remained to be clarified. But early suspicion of official Iranian involvement in the affair seems confirmed.

The latest information suggests that Mr Chaplin was a captive of the Central Komiteh, a shadowy organization with links to the Revolutionary Guard. What relationship it has with the mainstream revolutionary government in Tehran, remains obscure. While the distinction between "official" and "unofficial" in faction-ridden Tehran is often very difficult to draw, the use by the Iranian authorities of the term "arrest" to describe the disappearance

of Mr Chaplin indicates that Tehran's authorities were involved.

What motives lay behind the outrage is hard to answer. There have been suggestions that the Iranians were trying to work a "tit-for-tat" arrest, following the charging of an Iranian vice-consul in Manchester with an alleged shoplifting offence. If so, it is an utterly unacceptable way for one government to do business with another.

There is anyway no parallel between the two — between a properly constituted criminal charge brought by the courts; and what sound like wild, baseless accusations. Mr Chaplin's wholly unlawful detention was said by the Iranians to be "on suspicion of unspecified activities". That sounds like a sentence from Newspeak and deserves to be treated as such.

That Mr Chaplin had full diplomatic immunity seems not to have occurred to the Iranians. Their own man in Manchester in contrast enjoyed only limited immunity — which meant that it was accorded to him only when he was going about the conduct of his official business. The kindest construction to put upon the incident is that a group of quasi-official revolutionaries over-reacted in trying to please their lords and masters. But this does not absolve a dictatorial regime like that in Tehran from responsibility.

Since the 1979 revolution, Britain has, quite correctly, tried to establish a *modus vivendi* with Iran. The Interests Section in Tehran now has 17 diplomatic staff (with a total of 15 dependants) which is the strength of a medium-sized embassy. Disputes between the two countries remain, and as long as Iran's record on human rights remains so appalling, it is hard to see how relations between us could be little more than "correct".

Still, the attempt to find firmer ground between us has continued. Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in the Commons last November that "we stand ready to build a more constructive relationship in future, based upon mutual interests".

It will be impossible to achieve this if the Iranian government is not even prepared to respect the terms of the Vienna Convention, which allows diplomats of both countries to carry out their business unimpeded. That depends on Iran returning to the comity of civilized nations which it has left.

VOTES AND THE TAX SYSTEM

The details of tax reform are not obvious material for election campaigns. Whenever the subject has arisen on the hustings the Tories have been on the defensive. Yet tax is the part of economic policy which touches most voters most directly. More important, the design of the tax system can have at least as much effect on the capacity of the economy to supply goods and services as spending and borrowing have on the level of demand.

Historians may well conclude that the most important economic achievement of the second Thatcher Government was not turning British Gas from a public monopoly into a private monopoly but the revolution in company taxation which has brought the rate of Corporation Tax down from 52 per cent to 35 per cent.

Labour's attack has homed in on VAT. Tory cuts in income tax, according to Labour, would be paid for by simply putting VAT on anything which is not taxed already including food. The Tories can reasonably reply that this argument does not take account of the cut in the basic rate of income tax from 30p in the pound to 27p in the past two Budgets which has been achieved with no increases in VAT of any kind.

With the economy growing at its present rate there is likely to be scope for tax cuts without resorting to raising extra funds elsewhere. Nevertheless, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson have felt it necessary to rule out putting VAT on food and have also said taxing water and power is unlikely.

The fewer such pledges that are made in the heat of an election campaign the better. The country's tax regime should not be determined for the lifetime of a parliament according to which number comes up on Sir Robin Day's switchboard. The proper way to reform the tax system is to set out the broad aims clearly for discussion, devise a carefully balanced package and then consult on the details.

Whatever the pressures of the campaign may seem to dictate there are perfectly sound arguments for switching further from taxes on

income to taxes on spending. Because taxes on income are more difficult to collect, switching from one to the other would tend to minimize the black economy.

There are also sound arguments for further cuts in the higher rates of income tax. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor have made clear that if the cut in the top rate in the US to 28 per cent threatens to accelerate the drain of talent overseas they may need to cut rates here. But competition from the US is not the only reason (though it may be the most politically accessible) for cutting rates. There is a case purely on incentive grounds.

By implication Mr Hattersley denies this in contending that the reversal of cuts in taxation on higher incomes would enable him to fund his programme for increasing benefits. But as the tax paid by those on higher incomes has actually risen as a proportion of total tax revenue since the top rate on earned income was brought down in 1979 this must be questionable.

At the heart of the matter is the structure of income tax for the general taxpayer. Labour has made clear, with some fiscal courage, that it would need to reverse this year's 2p cut in the basic rate in order to finance its programme. But in the course of the campaign it has floated the vague notion of bringing back a lower rate band on the first £750 of taxable income such as Mr Healey introduced when he was Chancellor.

There is a good deal to be said for this in principle when the starting rate is as high as it is even after the reductions of the past eight years. But in practice, because everyone — not just those on low incomes — benefits from the lower rate on the first slice of their income it is not a very cost-effective way of helping the low paid. It also adds considerably to the bureaucracy. Mr Healey's lower rate band was set at 25p. With every expectation of cutting the basic rate to below that level in the course of a new Parliament the Tories may justifiably feel that the idea has little to offer.

FOURTH LEADER

At a bird sanctuary in Farnham, a pair of penguins were seen to be behaving oddly. Though oddly is hardly a strong enough word, for the birds were plainly struggling in the water, sinking deeper and deeper, and if the staff had not noticed their trouble and snatched them to safety, they would have drowned.

It sounds like one of those riddles: you know, "How do you make a Venetian blind?" "How do you make a Maltese Cross?" This one would be "How do you drown a couple of penguins?"

The answer astonished everybody concerned: it was "You'll find out if you hold them upside down and shake them." For examination of the birds disclosed that one of them had £1.99 inside him, all in small denomination coins, and the other had £1.66.

Biggins and Dillon (their names) were not bank robbers; the money swallowed by the two birds had been thrown into their pool. Possibly those who dispensed the largesse thought they were at the English equivalent of the Trevi Fountain in Rome (where throwing three coins into the water means that the thrower will return); possibly some prankster had told them that that was the correct way of paying the entrance fee; possibly they believed that the money what penguins lived on; possibly the money was thrown by exceptionally short-sighted visitors who thought that the birds were a pair of head waiters expecting a tip. (If so, the visitors were not exactly throwing it around,

except literally.) There are as many ways of raising the wind as there are people short of the ready, we may now expect to see indignant penguins, in zoos and ornamental pools up and down the country, being shaken vigorously to disgorge the treasure presumed to be inside them.

But then, if penguins, why not ducks and even chickens? (Ostriches, which do swallow coins and other metal objects with apparent relish, are ruled out as dangerous — they kick.)

The idea can be put to good use. Money can be raised for charity, for instance, by stuffing birds with cash at village fêtes and having them disgorge it at an appropriate moment, the most appropriate being when a photographer from the local paper is at hand. Or visitors to the fête might be asked to buy a ticket to the goose-guessing; pay sixpence, write down your estimate of how much will be found in each bird, and the person who gets closest to the right answer gets a prize.

Of course, there is bound to be a complaint from those organizations which campaign against *paie de foie gras*, stuffing birds with corn is bad enough, but with money? In the end, it is up to the visitors, who must be persuaded not to feed the elephant with buns, the monkey with nuts and the penguins with pennies. If that doesn't work, nothing will. Piggy banks, yes; but penguin banks will never catch on.

Waiting around to no purpose

From Mr A. L. Dull
Sir, Mr Frederick Bottingbroke (third leader, May 23), the restaurateur, is quite entitled to his compensation from those who do not arrive at the appointed hour to claim the table they have booked.

No doubt he would also acknowledge the equity that a previously booked customer who presents himself on time only to find the restaurant full to overflowing and no prospect of a table within an hour, should similarly be compensated.

Only the likelihood that my legal costs would exceed the compensation persuaded me against an action against a local restaurant chain which accepted on Tuesday our booking for Saturday evening. When we arrived a few minutes early, all tables were occupied, the diners mostly still on their main courses, and some 20 people thronged the waiting area, obviously ahead of us in the queue. We left immediately, with sharp words in the direction of the manager.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. DULL
Westfield Farm House,
Medmenham,
Near Marlow, Buckinghamshire,
May 25.

From Mr J. M. Segar
Sir, Your third leader highlighting the plight of restaurateurs whose clients fail to turn up after booking a meal relates exactly to the hardship suffered by thousands of hairdressing salons every working day.

All too often appointments are taken in good faith, sometimes for a service such as a permanent wave, which can take three hours or more, only to find no client, no apology and an assistant hanging around with nothing to do.

Heaven help the small business who does not give the consumer a fair deal. But what about the hardship and loss imposed on service traders who suffer from the thoughtlessness of the great British public.

Yours cuttignly,
J. M. SEGAR,
358 Lordship Lane, SE22,
May 25.

From Mr Guy Bailey
Sir, Your leading article "Empty Tables" examined methods of making people keep their word when reserving a table but this problem is in no way unique to the restaurant trade.

In our own business, we sell cars; customers often cancel their orders on the most frivolous pretexts and demand as a right the return of the deposit they paid when the order was placed.

I do not consider that we should too readily abandon the concept of "the Englishman's word" and if this is one of the things Mrs Thatcher is referring to when she talks of a return to Victorian values then on that at least I agree with her.

Yours faithfully,
GUY BAILEY,
1 Holland Villas Road, W14,
May 25.

Feeding the world

From Wing Commander A. G. Trevenen James
Sir, Your leading article "A World of Babies" (May 26) is timely, but two of its conclusions are misleading. Man cannot regard his future "with greater equanimity" nor, in practice, can he "feed himself twice over". It is far from reassuring to know that some 40 per cent of all the earth's great rain forests will have been consumed by man with his present numbers, which are expected to double by the middle of the next century.

By the end of this century, four fifths of the world's inhabitants will be living in the food-deficient world and the fact that there is a vast food surplus in the developed world contributes little — apart from emergency food aid — to a long-term solution of the complex problems of poverty and malnutrition.

Yours faithfully,
TREVENEN JAMES,
Joint Vice-Chairman,
Population Concern,
231 Tottenham Court Road, W1,
May 27.

Iconoclastic?

From Mr J. O. Forrest
Sir, I took my granddaughter, age 5, to the exhibition of icons at the Royal Academy. On arriving home her mother asked her how she had enjoyed the pictures. "It was very nice," she said, "all the ladies had babies, and all the gentlemen wore gold hats".

Yours faithfully,
J. O. FORREST,
74 Lawn Road,
Hamstead, NW3.

Medina treasure

From Mr Nicholas Thomas
Sir, Professor McGrail's letter (May 4) will have caused deep concern among those who are already fearful about the inadequate protection and preservation of this nation's priceless underwater heritage of sunken ships.

It is true that the Secretary of State for Transport (under the terms of the 1973 Wrecks Act) has the assistance of an Advisory Committee on Historic Wrecks when designating wreck sites of outstanding importance. But so long as part IX of the 1984 Merchant Shipping Act continues in force without revision, this committee will remain ineffective in preserving our extraordinarily rich maritime remains.

Deaths and involuntary smoking

From the Surgeon General of the United States

Sir, I would like to correct, for the record, certain statements attributed to me by Ms Barbara Amiel in *The Times* dated March 13. In her article, "Smoke in their eyes", Ms Amiel claimed I stated that the effects of second-hand smoke were responsible for 2,000 deaths in the United States, but when "challenged" concerning this figure, I reportedly retreated from this position, saying, "It was all in a good cause".

Ms Amiel further stated that I admitted that the majority of studies on non-smoker exposure to tobacco smoke failed to demonstrate a statistically significant relationship. Lastly, Ms Amiel wrote that I admitted falsifying facts, thereby subverting science to politics.

When we released the 1986 Surgeon General's Report on the Health Consequences of Involuntary Smoking, we presented data which demonstrated that involuntary smoking is responsible for approximately 2,400 cancer deaths annually among non-smokers. This compares with approximately 1,300 to 1,700 new cancer cases resulting from general air pollutants in our environment.

The conclusions of the Surgeon General's report were almost identical with that issued a month earlier by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS); their estimate of 2,400 lung cancer deaths attributed to tobacco smoke is about the mid-point of estimates published in the scientific literature. If I

conveyed to Ms Amiel that these estimates were somehow fabricated, then I would like to correct that misperception.

Although several studies examining passive smoking and lung cancer have not shown a statistically significant relationship, most have found a positive relationship. Of the 13 published studies available for review by the NAS expert panel and the 1986 Surgeon General's report (additional studies did not become available until after these reports were in press), 11 showed a positive association and six demonstrated statistically significant results. Two additional studies are now in press, and both found a positive association between passive smoking and lung cancer in non-smokers.

The 1986 Surgeon General's report was the work of more than 60 internationally known scientists, representing a variety of disciplines. It was their reasoned judgement that a sufficient basis existed for concluding that passive smoking was a health risk to non-smokers. As Surgeon General, I have publicly stated on numerous occasions that we have more than sufficient data to justify measures to protect the public health from exposure to an agent that is a proven human carcinogen.

Sincerely yours,
C. EVERETT KOOP,
Surgeon General of the
Public Health Service,
Department of Health & Human Services,
Washington DC 20201, USA.

When opera offends

From Sir Alfred Beit

Sir, The Neapolitan censor would not I am sure have agreed with Mr George Galle's assertions that "Grand Opera does not and cannot threaten any regime however obnoxious".

In 1858, partly as a result of an attempt that year on the life of Napoleon III, and more importantly because no monarch at that time would tolerate regicide on the stage, the censor in Naples forbade Verdi's *Il Ballo in Maschera* because Gustav III of Sweden is assassinated on the stage. The plot of this opera consequently had to be transferred to Boston, Massachusetts, which did nothing to improve it.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED BEIT,
2 The Little Beltons, SW10.

From Mr Christopher Dean
Sir, In his article, "Do we really need opera?" (May 23) George Gale has included the throw-away line: "in music, in architecture, in art, even (novels excluded) ... in literature, the work of the 19th

century from around 1830 onwards was at best second-rate".

Mr Gale must have forgotten that powerful strain in France running through symbolist poetry (Baudelaire's *Correspondances* shows the link), Impressionist painting and the music of Saint-Saëns and Debussy. He might also like to recall the thrust of the late Turner (1830s and 1840s) to the early post-Raphaelites and William Morris.

Then he should consider the plays of Ibsen and Grillparzer, (not forgetting Büchner's short life which came to fruition in the 1830s), the music of Dvorak, Brahms and Tchaikovsky and the sculpture of Rodin.

The late nineteenth century was the century of the twentieth. Elgar, Schoenberg, Picasso and a host of others were emerging. Everyone can have an off day, even an off year, but collectively these artists didn't make a habit of producing second-rate work.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DEAN,
Rose Cottage, Ruckford Mill,
Malthouse Lane,
Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

Safety at sea

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen
Sir, Mr James Sherwood (letter, May 23) has concluded that the loss of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was due to "the unsatisfactory seamanship of the ship's deck officers".

This conventional, human error analysis will not do. Shipping companies have a statutory duty to ensure that work tasks are properly supervised and to ensure that safe systems of work and safe places of work are provided and maintained.

The formal inquiry now in session has heard frank admissions to the effect that these corporate duties were neglected. If this had not been the case the risk of the tragedy occurring would have been considerably reduced.

The formal inquiry has also been told that the Department of Transport did not make spot checks on ferries and that not enough inspectors are employed for this to be done. Official guidance on the procedures to be

followed when bow doors are being opened or closed was not provided. False draught readings were not detected. Excessive and illegal passenger carrying passed unnoticed.

In short, the department has made no effort to enforce its own regulations, thereby failing to exercise any corrective influence on the safety arrangements approved or condoned by the managers responsible for the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

The men who Mr Sherwood is so ready to pillory worked to procedures acknowledged to be defective by those same managers. The existence of these unsafe procedures was totally ignored by the Department of Transport. If Mr Sherwood wishes to allocate responsibility the latter candidates should not have escaped his attention.

Yours faithfully,
S. MCCLUSKIE,
General Secretary,
National Union of Seamen,
Maritime House,
Old Town, Clapham, SW4,
May 26.

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S. MCCLUSKIE,
General Secretary,
National Union of Seamen,
Maritime House,
Old Town, Clapham, SW4,
May 26.

Population explosion

From Dr G. C. L. Bertman
Sir, At last your leader "Population explosion" (May 26) has spoken bluntly of the overwhelming need of our day — "a more intensive effort to control the population of our planet", now at 5,000 million.

"What are people for?" is a supreme example of a fundamental question which is almost never asked. Thus I wrote 25 years ago for Julian Huxley's symposium volume, *The Humanist Frame*. In those years a further 2,000 million have been added to the human total. Quality of life not quantity must become the universally recognised aim; and the two are largely antagonistic.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. L. BERTMAN,
St John's College,
Cambridge.

Awaiting surgery

From Mrs Alex Lansbert
Sir, Mr Nigel Harris appears to be talking from a secure ivory tower at St Mary's Hospital in "Stop making patients pawns" (Feature, May 23).

I was told last week that I would have to wait two to three months for an "urgent" kidney operation at a provincial teaching hospital — "after the cancer patients and before the rest". The implications of this are that patients with cancer are having to wait up to three months for surgery and that some non-cancer patients needing urgent surgery to prevent further kidney damage may in time need long-term renal dialysis or kidney transplant. (The fact that to provide surgery now by clearing waiting lists is very much cheaper in the long term than providing treatment for chronic renal failure would seem to escape the financial powers-that-be.)

It may in fact be possible in some cases to get earlier treatment in another health area, but in my experience it is not policy to tell the patient that, or indeed to offer to instigate the process of referral.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX LANDSBERT,
Coigne House,
57 Hurst Lane, Cumnor, Oxford.

Christianity and birth of science

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, Your correspondents on science and religion (May 18 and 27) have picked up only one part of Professor Jaki's thesis (article, May 12) and hence dismissed it unfairly. If his claim was simply that the birth of science depended on belief in the rational intelligibility of the universe, then they are right in saying that there is no reason why it should not have happened in ancient Greece.

But his point is more subtle than that. In Christian belief the created world is both rational and inscrutable because its Creator far transcends human understanding. The rational order of the world cannot therefore be explored and established on the basis of reason alone. It has to be discovered experimentally by an investigative process which is both rational and empirical. Because human beings cannot read the mind of God we are forced to look at what he has actually done — in other words, to read the Book of Nature.

It is the coincidence between these two strands in Christian thinking, coming first to full cultural expression in the high Middle Ages, which set, and still sets, the intellectual scene for science.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York,
May 27.

THE TIMES

ON THIS DAY

MAY 30 1987

On May 28 Sir Francis Chichester, sailing his ketch *Gipsy Moth IV*, completed the single-handed voyage round the world which he had begun on August 27 of the previous year. Asked to sum up briefly his experience when he landed, he said: "I think it intensifies life... Lady Chichester and their son Giles were the first to greet him."

Chichester's own story

Now I can drink with no fear of a hurricane

From Sir Francis Chichester,
Astor House, The Hoe, Plymouth.

Well, I'm home at long last, and very glad to be. After four months as a solitary sea-going monkey never daring to let go with one hand without grabbing something with the other, it is naturally going to take me a little time to get back fully into the human race, but I'm finding my readjustment remarkably rapid, far easier than in the same situation in Sydney.

I needed a pain killer to get to sleep last night, but already the elbow is improving, no doubt because I am no longer banging it every moment on everything in the boat with a sharp corner... I slept well. The room heaved a little, but this is natural after so many months on a constantly moving boat, and I find my land legs coming back at a very encouraging speed...

In the past few weeks of good sailing I found that my interest in music and books was also coming back... On the way out to Sydney I played my tape recorder once just past the Canary Islands but I found that music made me feel so human, so much like a man missing his family and friends, that I never played it again, and as far as books were concerned I couldn't seem to get interested in fiction and stuck pretty much to books about sailing and navigation.

Strangely enough, coming back past the Azores I got my tape recorder out again and played some tapes which Giles had selected for me — Ravel's *Bolero*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*, which I enjoyed immensely.

I also got out my books again, and my last night off Plymouth I was reading Shakespeare with great enjoyment — I hope this isn't a comment on my voyage, but I happened to be half-way through *Much Ado About Nothing*...

Things like my capsize off Sydney and the passage round the Horn are deeply imprinted on my mind...

I would never have had the capsize if I had taken the advice of the water people in Sydney and delayed my departure a week to let the cyclone go by... The other error, if that is the right word, was really a case of not being quite as vigilant as I might have been about where I was. Shortly after the Horn I set a course to take me quite close to Staten Island, which was then more than 100 miles away.

Next morning I was cooking my breakfast and glanced out of the cockpit and was astonished to see Staten Island, a really vicious-looking mountainous chunk of land, only three miles off my beam. The current during the night had carried me the extraordinary distance of more than 50 miles. I was still on my course and well clear of Staten Island, but the thought of an island popping up without my knowledge was a good warning to me to triple check every detail of my navigation in the future...

In praise of gravy

From Mr Trevor Lytleton

Sir, The English call it gravy, the French *jus*, and the Americans — to judge from several recently inspected US restaurant menus — *au jus sauce*!

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR LYTLETON,
23 Brynston Court,
George Street, W1.

May 30-June 5, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

When love was all you'd need



It was 20 years ago on Monday that Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band was released. Philip Norman (left) analyses the chemistry behind the Beatles' masterpiece

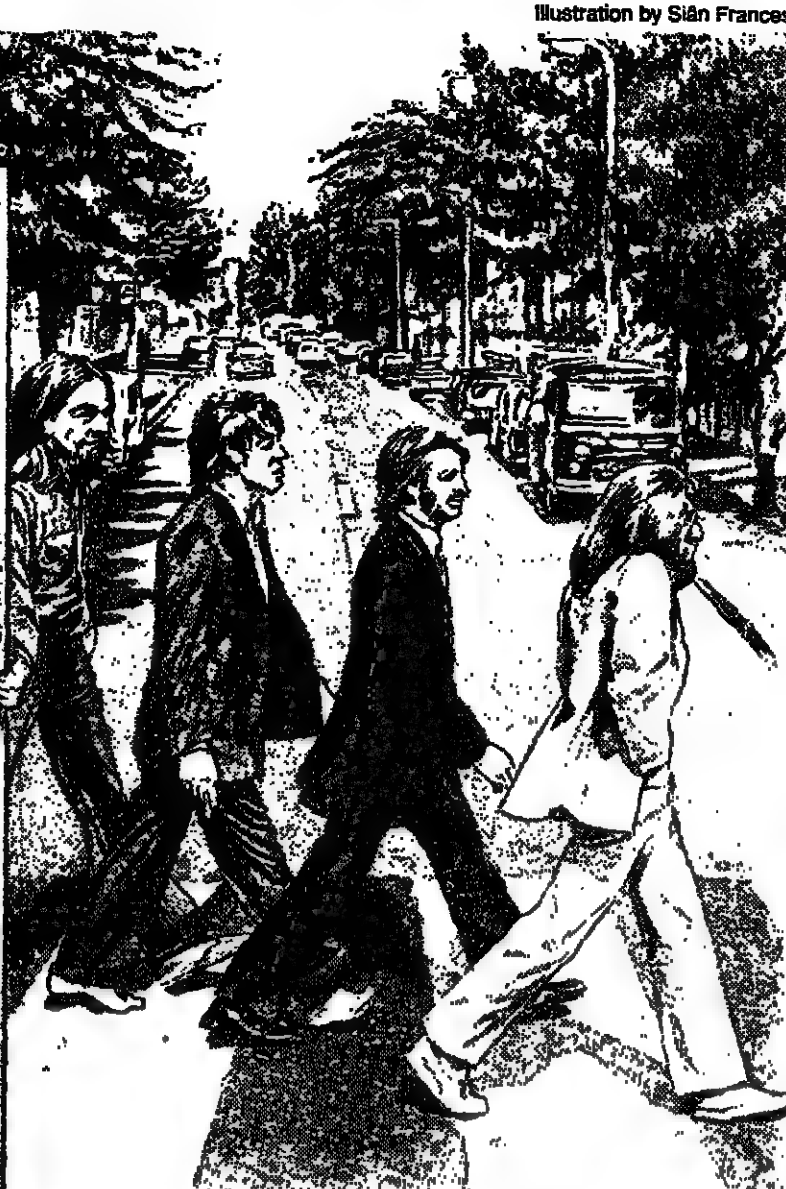


Illustration by Siân Frances

Three ages of the Fab Four: the happy adolescents of "Twist and Shout" stepped through the looking-glass of Sgt Pepper and turned into the world-weary grown-ups of Abbey Road

There should have been an even better album.

In mid-1966, the Beatles met to record what John Lennon and Paul McCartney both saw, in their vastly different ways, as an elegy to Liverpool. The sessions produced "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "Penny Lane", memoirs of childhood scenes, one muzzily surreal, one brownie suburban. Then, "the shot-clear" attention wandered to other things. Their two chapters of autobiography were frittered away as a single, to be humbly pipped in the charts by Engelbert Humperdinck.

Early in 1967, they drifted back into Abbey Road studios. It was the era of joke militaria, bought from shops like I Was Lord Kitchener's Valet. Paul McCartney had written a song in that vein of moustachioed whimsy, called "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band". During initial tinkering with it, an idea occurred to Paul. "Why don't we do a whole album as the Pepper band? We can dub in special effects and things..."

The notion of a pop LP as a storybook or symphony, rather than a mere ragbag of

tunes, had already occurred elsewhere. The Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds*, in 1966, panoramically evoked their Californian world of sun and surf. Frank Zappa's *Freek Out!*, the same year, was the prototype acid rock reverie. The Beatles were avid mimics as much as they ever were innovators. Throughout the Sgt Pepper sessions, Paul McCartney kept saying: "This is our *Freek Out!*".

Not the least stimulus was a feeling of guilt. The world's most hungered-for performers had quickly given up stage performance, bruised and disillusioned after their 1966 American tour. For months they had lived in stockbroker-bell idleness, fretful with luxury, vaguely disturbed by the psychedelic dust blowing over the Atlantic from San Francisco. They wanted to keep contact with their audience, but knew they could never face touring again. Sgt Pepper was the compromise: a live performance from the studio.

The Lennon-McCartney material that happened to be on hand was stupendous. From his boredom and fidgets in Weybridge, John had written "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and, his masterpiece, "A Day in the Life".

Paul's melodic and lyric gifts had touched new heights in "She's Leaving Home", a novel in miniature about a fugitive spinster, her grieving parents and the "man from the motor trade". Though John and he now wrote quite separately, each remained a vital creative element in the other. Even for "A Day in the Life", John borrowed a middle eight from Paul as naturally as an indiarubber or comb.

The supporting players were as on form as their permanent eclipse allowed. George Harrison's "Within You Without You" seemed to contain every star and joss stick smell in Buddha-crazed London. Ringo left his purdah with the road managers to warble his ritual look-in, "With a Little Help From My Friends".

Between the tracks they dubbed in joke sound effects—farmyard and zoo noises, steam engines, laughter, the rippling "oohs" and "aahs" of children at a circus. Even to their producer, the austere George Martin, Sgt Pepper's vaudeville show seemed to take on a life of its own.

Martin never guessed how much the accord and good humour owed to chemical causes. All four Beatles—even cautious Paul—were liberally sampling the "mind-expanding" drug whose initial letters "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" coyly spelled out.

Martin noticed that John Lennon looked rather strange, and taking him on to the studio-roof for air. Paul loyally drove him home and joined him in the hoped-for restorative of "turning on" yet again.

The climax was "A Day in the Life". John's dispatch from his own half-timbered house of the Dead. His sole instruction to George Martin was that it must build up to "a sound like the end of the world". To this end, a 41-piece symphony orchestra was hired, with instructions to play whatever came into their heads.

The song's taping was a gala occasion, attended by other pop royalty like Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull. The symphony orchestra played in fancy dress, gorilla paws wielding violin-bows. Swinging London never saw such a night of fun, prodigious waste and taking no thought for the morrow.

By the end, Sgt Pepper had become a masterpiece no one could bear to finish. They worked one night from 7pm to 3am merely to record a scrap of gibberish for the play-out groove. The final touch was a note of 20,000 hertz frequency, audible only to dogs.

For the sleeve, nothing would do but to commission Peter Blake, London's foremost pop artist. Blake produced his famous collage of the Beatles as psychedelic hussars, set about by faces from the pop art pantheon—Marlon Brando, Tom Mix, Laurel and Hardy, W.C. Fields—plus modern-day joke figures like the boxer Sonny Liston, their own dead bass-player, Stu Sutcliffe, and their ludicrous wax effigies from Madam Tussaud's.

EMI at first rejected the

design, fearing massive lawsuits from those whose likenesses had been borrowed. The Beatles had to indemnify their record company against litigation costs up to £20 million. In addition, a hapless secretary had to obtain telephone permissions from as many of the faces as possible. Eventually the only one taken off was Mahatma Gandhi.

The album was marketed both as work of art and carnival invitation. For the first time ever, song lyrics were printed in full on the sleeve. Inside with the disc were party novelties—paper sergeant's stripes, a picture card, two badges and a false moustache.

The summer until then had seemed choc full of pop records that were revelations, of youth hyperbole that could soar no higher. Yet after June 1, the feeling was that everything had been surpassed. Long before one heard Sgt Pepper, one could see its effect—the dazzled eyes, the gently shaking heads, the lips moving in praise almost beyond articulation.

Like almost every Sixties child, I can remember exactly where I was when I first heard it. I had gone down to Sunningdale to interview Diana Dors (who was, indeed, depicted among Sgt Pepper's

entourage). She and I, her several small dogs and two kaffian-wearing boy friends sat by her swimming pool, listening to the album play inside the house. I remember with what collisions of disbelief I looked at those bare brown legs, that tumble of platinum hair, those glossy, bee-stung lips, echoing "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely..."

No pop music was ever so universally popular. The freakiest pothead, in his silver foil garret, could not doubt his mind had been blown to the outermost reaches by "Lucy in the Sky". Grannies and aunts, toe-tapping along with "When I'm Sixty-Four", would never be nervous of long hair again. It was music that somehow mingled with the sunshine, blowing from every boutique-door, sparkling with the King's Road throng, hovering like a bendson over the hordes plundering bric-a-brac stalls in Portobello Market.

In the British and US press, intellectual Beatlemania passed all known limits. Kenneth Tynan wrote that Sgt Pepper represented "a decisive moment in the history of 'Western Civilisation'". The *New York Times* said it heralded "a new and golden renaissance of song". *Newsweek's* critic could find a parallel only with T.S. Eliot: "A Day in the Life", he said, was "the Beatles' 'Waste Land'".

America's response launched the Beatles on the last, craziest spiral of their fame. Sgt Pepper's release coincided both with the upsurge in student radicalism and a now-insatiable hippie hunger for mysticism in any and every guise. Millions of young Americans sought demagogues and gurus to follow, and lit on the same four psychedelic hussars. Sgt Pepper's lyrics became a sacred hippie text, its *Beano*-ish storylines and Scouse in-jokes reverently intoned and ransacked for nuggets of universal truth. "I declare," wrote hippiedom's high priest, Dr Timothy Leary, "the Beatles are mutants. Prototypes of evolutionary agents, sent by God to found a new species... They are the wisest, holiest, most effective avatars the human race has ever produced."

A backlash was inevitable, from quarters already chafing at youth's seemingly limitless prerogative. The BBC banned "A Day in the Life" for drug-taking references, both actual and imagined. A furor erupted over "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", the worst evidence yet of pop's amoral message to the young. Every Sgt Pepper song would ultimately be credited with a junkie sub-text, though almost no one noticed its most barbed-faced narcotic advertisement. On the cover, at the mystic orchestra's feet, sprouted a row of marijuana plants.

From then on, the sunlight rapidly turned sour. The Drugs Squad began the trawl that would eventually net John and George, though for the present only Rolling Stones were persecuted. The golden renaissance of song proved scarcely effectual in Vietnam, Detroit, the Sinai Desert. Under bright blue skies, human beings shrivelled and burned the way they always had done. Sgt Pepper's show was audible no longer only as a descendant to pure happiness. "A Day in the Life", about "the lucky man who made the grade", was the music chosen for Joe Orton's funeral.

In August, the Beatles became disciples of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. That Bank Holiday weekend, as they sat at the Maharishi's feet, Brian Epstein their manager was

found dead of drink and drugs in Beigravia. That—though none could know it—was the end of the Beatle Luck. Ahead lay drug busts, Yoko Ono, the squalid divisions of Apple, the last painful pattering-out.

Twenty years on, it all seems positively quaint. The daring and outrage echo only their wide-eyed innocence. The images that so dazzled and disturbed, now have the cheery blamelessness of pre-war seaside postcards. It's hard to visualize a time when young people seemed thrice-blessed, seeing them today queue up for jobs. Harder still to imagine pop music as youth's secret, blinding it fast on its glorious adventure. We know that what pop really exists for is to sell detergent, cat food, privatization and, if need be, the Third World War.

It was not a decisive moment in western civilization.

Michael Watts

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It was not a decisive moment in western civilization.

Philip Norman's *Shout! The True Story of the Beatles* is published by Corgi, price £2.50.

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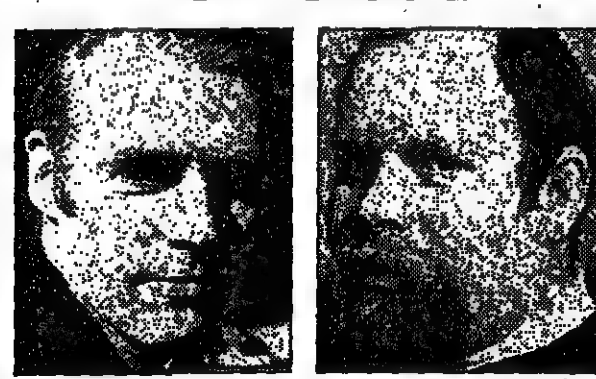
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Flower power revisited



Producer and designer: George Martin (left) and Peter Blake

Seventeen years after their professional demise, the popularity of the Beatles shows no sign of declining. There are more than 100 books about them in English alone, while as long ago as 1980 their record company, EMI, calculated that they had sold a thousand million records and tapes worldwide.

The inexhaustible fascination with their activities will be marked on Monday by a party at EMI's Abbey Road Studios—where, in 129 days, the album was recorded. George Martin and Peter Blake will be among the guests.

At 8pm on the same evening, a two-hour documentary called *It Was 20 Years Ago Today* can be seen on the ITV network. Eighteen months in production, it places the album in historical context. The era of flower power, psychedelic drugs

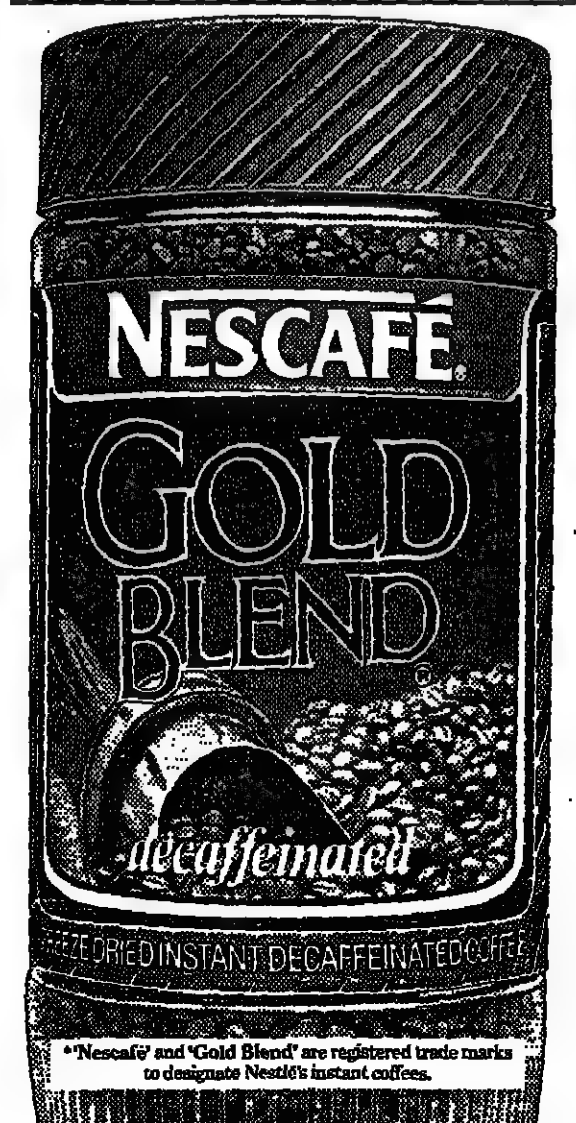
and counter-cultural politics is defused in the film by such grizzled veterans as the former political activist Abbie Hoffman, the LSD guru Dr Timothy Leary and the poet Allen Ginsberg.

Three weeks after Sgt Pepper's debut, the Beatles appeared before the world on satellite television performing a new song, "All You Need Is Love". Twenty years later, the documentary questions the accuracy of their prescription.

"I don't know what you need," McCartney now confesses. Ringo Starr—reputed, like John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, to have signed a seven-figure contract to write an autobiography—refused to be filmed. Only the normally exclusive George Harrison stands by the old idealism.

Michael Watts

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HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Corfu is bursting!

It's springtime in Corfu and the island is once again bursting with wild flowers. The profusion of wild flowers in evidence the minute you walk off the plane at Corfu's pretty little airport. For even here are masses of flowers running riot around the terminal building to welcome the incoming visitor.

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REVIEW

Mexican hats miss their mark

● *Sombrero Fallout*, by Richard Brautigan (Athena, £2.95)

When I was young, Brautigan's books were somewhere between Borges and Hesse on the new-fangled rotating bookstand by the till on the way out of the Eng. Lit. department. The same principle is applied to racks of crisps and/or chewing gum in supermarkets.

I had put down failure to succumb to these blandishments, in Brautigan's case, to a youthfully fastidious distaste for a man who allowed pictures of himself plus latest girlfriend to grace the covers of his books. I now think, after reading one, that a mysterious instinct for literary self-preservation may have been at work — now, sadly, atrophied by age — and over-exposure to rotating bookstands.

What is *Sombrero Fallout* about? It may well be that it is about cold Mexican hats falling from the sky and the inexplicable reluctance of the natives to pick them up. Certainly this happens at the beginning of at least four chapters (2-3 pages with a lot

of blank space either end). However, the significance of this motif is lost to me.

Nevertheless the book is shot through — not to say down in flames — by a number of themes bordering on obsessions. Namely sex, and sex and Mr Brautigan. The author's treatment of himself is too cringe-making to go into in much detail. There is a character modestly described as "a well-known American humorist" who "reaches into the typewriter as if he were an undertaker zipping up the fly of a dead man in his coffin".

As to sex, if you're lucky without the participation of the well-known American humorist, I wondered whether my reaction of profound visceral loathing to these passages was peculiar to myself. So I read them to a roomful of young ladies. The appalled silence that greeted this catalogue of cliché-ridden, spine-chilling chauvinism exceeded all expectation. Worse still he writes with a breezy pseudo-Hemingwayesque brevity complicated by a point-blank refusal to put words in sensible order. "Revolutionary" according to his publisher — also absolutely infuriating.

Adam Carr

Back to the root

● *Galapagos*, by Kurt Vonnegut (Griffin, £2.95)

Ever since *Slaughterhouse 5* Vonnegut has made the market in the more extreme manifestations of human folly (war, hunger, etc) pretty well covered.

The premise of this strange book is that evolution, in allowing man to develop a large brain, has made a terminal blunder. A pleasing notion to clothe Lamarckian *Galapagos* brings Vonnegut's lifelong belief in the imperfection of human nature to its logical conclusion.

However it is legitimate to ask why, other than his predilection for turning the world on its head, Vonnegut should see a large brain as a crippling evolutionary disability. His argument is that the Devil finds work for idle brains, that our brains are larger than needed for the diurnal drudgery of survival. That surplus cranial capacity is put to species-threatening uses such as writing novels and dreaming up the bomb. After all, would Einstein have

had the time for nuclear graffiti on the back of an envelope, had he had to spend every waking moment fighting off starvation by rooting about for unselectively bred neolithic-style tubers?

In defence of this thesis Vonnegut press-gangs a motley crew of incompetents, loonies and con-men into an ill-fated "nature cruise of the century" to the Galapagos. Due to a combination of stupidity, a sterility-inducing virus and war, these castaways become the last viable humans on earth.

Their million-year descent back down the evolutionary ladder to a fish-eating creature very like a seal, is chronicled by the ghost of a deceased Swedish/American welder, who has declined his dead father's invitation to advance down "the blue tube to the afterlife".

This may sound daft but isn't. In pursuit of *Homo sapiens*' shortcomings Vonnegut is funny, intelligent, and frighteningly persuasive.

A.C.

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION
Forty Stories, by John Updike (Penguin, £4.95) Surprises and wit from the master chronicler of modern American urban life. *Interior Affairs*, by Jill Tweedie (Penguin, £2.95) The White Guardian's burden with birth control in the Third World. *Small Change*, by Marge Piercy (Penguin, £3.95) American women fighting to make their way in a man's world, and the choices they must make. *The Erasers*, by Alain Robbe-Grillet, translated by Richard Howard (John Calder, £7.95) Pioneering *nouveau roman* set inside the mind of the detective.

NON-FICTION
Hinder, by Joachim C. Fest, translated by Richard and Clara Winston (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95) Blockbuster compulsive biography of the demon in historical context. *India File*, by Trevor Fisk (John Murray, £8.95) New edition, with Sikh unrest, Indira Gandhi's assassination, and first years of Rajiv by one of Fleet Street's finest foreign correspondents. *Post-Modernism: A Guide*, by Nigel Whiteley (The Design Council, £11.95) The first serious and thorough survey of the Post-Modern revolution of our times. *Sylvia and Christabel*, by Hilary Bailey (Penguin, £3.95 each) Lively slim vols in the admirable *Lives of Modern Women* series.

Eloquent suicide note

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 6*, NYPO/Bernstein, DG 419 804-2 (CD).
Bruckner: *Symphony No. 9*, Oslo PO/Talmi, Chandos DBRD 2010 (two black discs).
Nielsen: *Symphony No. 1, Little Suite*, Swedish RSO/Salonen, CBS IM 42321 (black disc).
Zemlinsky: *Die Seejungfrau*, Psalm 13, Berlin RSO/Chailly, Decca 417 450-2 (CD).
Wagner: *Polonia, Rule Britannia*, marches, Hong Kong PO/Kojan, Marco Polo 8.220114 (CD, also on black disc).
Strauss: *Symphony in D minor, Interludio, Kampf und Sieg*, Hong Kong PO/Schermhorn, Marco Polo 8.220323 (CD, also on black disc).
Strauss: *Symphony in F minor*, Slovak PO/Hatasz, Marco Polo 8.220358 (CD, also on black disc).
Zemlinsky: *Symphony No. 2*, Slovak PO/Seipenbusch, Marco Polo 8.220391 (CD).

Adagios that ache from note to note, coupled with several immense climactic silences, extend the duration of Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" to very nearly an hour, which might seem enough to rule out Bernstein's new recording as preposterous.

However, if this great performance has any faults — and it is difficult to be sure it has, when it commends itself so utterly as a unified conception — they are perhaps in the dynamism of the fast music, especially in the first movement. This is where Bernstein seems to be dramatizing the music, turning it to express something of his own *brío*, whereas his slow tempos, and the dark orchestral colours that go with them, are never at all self-indulgent.

Rather the music is curiously internalized, and in that way ennobled. The grand melodies of the outer movements are not sung but appear to sing themselves, not displaying self-pity but communicating an interior debate. If, as now seems inevitable, this symphony has to be accepted as a suicide note of terrible eloquence, then the conductor's responsibilities are awesome, and Bernstein's exposure of himself to those responsibilities is more than impressive. He plays dangerously because he has to: the stakes are that high when we are hearing not merely some reflex of homosexual guilt but the ego's death-song to itself.

Bruckner's contemporary Ninth



Symphony also has to do with death, if only because its finale was never finished. Or never finished until now: the new Chandos recording offers a first chance to hear the completion by William Carragan, an American physics professor. His movement efficiently strings together Bruckner's sketches and adds a coda; but the result is necessarily incoherent (so many of the sketches sound like steps between larger things that never come), and the ending, though majestic Brucknerian, also has the ineluctable flavour of the big band.

But, with commendable honesty, Yoav Talmi and the Oslo Philharmonic perform the sketches too, so that we can all hear what Bruckner

wrote and dream our own conclusions. Their performance throughout has the same honesty in its lucidity and inner force, and the recording would be highly recommendable even if it only offered the three movements Bruckner accomplished.

A third symphony from the early 1890s, Nielsen's *First*, is powerfully projected by Esa-Pekka Salonen in the latest release in his Nielsen cycle; and to this gritty piece there is a very pleasant antidote in the Little Suite for strings, played by the New Stockholm Chamber Orchestra.

Riccardo Chailly's recording of Zemlinsky's symphonic poem *Die Seejungfrau* introduces a work that was forgotten between its 1905 pre-

miere and a revival in 1984. Peter Gülke, in an admirably full note, suggests that the composer felt his work had been overshadowed by Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande*; if so, he had good reason. Playing for 40 minutes, *Die Seejungfrau* is prolix and repetitive, and though much of the scoring is beautiful, the ideas lack the definition of Strauss's or the rich implications of Schoenberg's. Perhaps Christoph von Dohnanyi's cut version, to be played at the Proms, will be a more successful rescue of this little mermaid, but Chailly's record is well worth hearing for the gloriously austere setting of Psalm 13 that Zemlinsky wrote in 1935, concluding a symphony of psalms that he had spread through his output. I wonder how the three works would sound together.

The adventurous and exploratory Marco Polo list, imported here by Pinnacle Records, is particularly strong in Austro-German oddities, none older than the Wagner ephemera recorded in Hong Kong. The overtures *Polonia* and *Rule Britannia* are essays in borrowed patriotism dating from 1836; the *Kaisermarsch* and the *Grosser Festmarsch* (for the first American centennial) are works of the 1870s. All four are, of course, colossally rhetorical, but the marches, particularly the *Kaisermarsch*, turn out to be as much for mastersingers as for military men, and there are other hints of the opera too, such as the prelude in *Polonia* of a key phrase from the Dutchman's narration.

The two Strauss symphonies, both very early, are not so filled with echoes; rather they show the composer moving between the ages of 17 and 19 from the world of Mendelssohn and Schumann (in the D minor work) to that of Tchaikovsky (in the F minor). Included with the D minor symphony are two later curios: the interlude written for a Wagnerized revival of *Idomeneo*, weirdly suggesting the possibility of a late Romantic Mozart, and the baroque *Kampf und Sieg*.

Unlike these pieces of juvenilia and hick work, Zemlinsky's *Second Symphony* can stand on its own merits. Conventional in form and proportion, it aspires from an age of doubt towards a buoyant B flat major, and in the first two movements achieves a curious forced, oppressed optimism. As with so much Zemlinsky, there is nothing quite like it: the scherzo, certainly, is difficult to forget.

Paul Griffiths

One for the fans

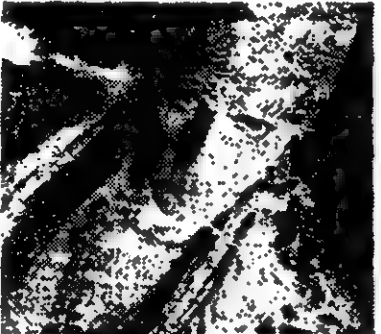
ROCK RECORDS

Simple Minds Live In The City Of Light (Virgin SMDL 1)
Little Steven Freedom No Compromise (Manhattan MTL 1010)

In the City of Light is a double live album that will delight Simple Minds fans, particularly the more recent converts, while leaving the rest of us little to wisec.

The black and gold graphics on the sleeve are redolent of the artwork on *The Joshua Tree*, and somewhere during the swirling pomp and splendour of "Sanctify Yourself" one begins to lose track of whether Simple Minds sounds like U2 or vice versa.

As the whole "double-live" syndrome suggests, Simple Minds has not reached platinum status without the giving of hostages to the big boys' rock band thinking, and the cool methodical atmospheres of "Someone Somewhere in Somewhere" and "Big Sleep" tend to be in the minority. More typical are Charlie Burchill's bold, clanging guitar chords in "Waterfront", and Jim Kerr's portentous melodramatic vocal delivery. In contrast to the vague spiritual theme of favourites like "Promised You a Miracle", "Book of Brilliant Things" and "New Gold Dream" there is a baffled attempt at Sly Stone's "Dance to the Music" and a more temporal message in the anti-



Little Steven: anti-ideological idealism apart from "San City", neither of which makes the slightest dent in the impression that the group has hoisted itself up to a remote and inaccessible pedestal, from where its glossy rootless music provides no anchorage against the danger of drifting off into the mass-marketing ether.

"America's on trial", according to the lyric of Little Steven's "Sanctuary" and on Freedom No Compromise the former E Street Band guitarist has got more than a few words to say on behalf of the prosecution. Despite being swamped by Steven's all-purpose anti-ideological idealism, the album yields some pretty reasonable music in the conventional American rock'n'roll rebel mode. And Springsteen joins in the fun on a reggae/African chant, "Native American".

David Sinclair

Kind of a classic

JAZZ RECORDS

Miles Davis Kind of Blue (CDBS 62066)
Keith Jarrett etc ECM Spectrum Vol 1 (ECM 831 623-2)

After 25 years of intimacy, *Kind of Blue* is the dearest of old flames, custom having signally failed to stale its infinite beauty.

Jazz fans are not being particularly well served by the CD schedulers, who must juggle their limited manufacturing capacity to satisfy the demand for Beatles reissues, *Graceland* and Vivaldi's greatest hits. New converts to the medium, whose first instinct is probably to form the bedrock to a new collection by acquiring digitally-mastered versions of their favourite classic recordings, will find a frustrating hotch-pot of material in the jazz racks.

At last, though, the small silver disc has been allowed to bring *Kind of Blue* to the fore, and new converts to the individual sounds of Davis's trumpet, Cannonball Adderley's jubilant alto saxophone and John Coltrane's haunted tenor to a brilliant gleam.

Perfectly contrasted and balanced, these three represent the finest front line ever assembled in modern jazz, and — with Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly dividing the piano duties, Paul Chambers on bass and Jimmy

Cobb behind the drums — this was their masterpiece, every bar charged with the thrill of discovery. Its reappearance reassures its standing as one of the few pieces of recorded jazz incapable of distortion through the new perspectives created by time's erosions.

Perhaps more than any other, this album was responsible for turning the course of modern jazz towards the contemplative mode crystallized in the sort of chamber jazz for which the ECM label became famous in the 1970s, and which has more recently deteriorated into the music-fed blandness of New Age music.

ECM Spectrum Vol 1 offers an overview of the label's achievements, sampling the work of some of its most popular artists, such as Keith Jarrett, Jan Garbarek and the group Oregon. Guitarists will particularly relish the opportunity to compare the playing of Pat Metheny, Egberto Gismonti, John Abercrombie and the marvellous Norwegian tone-poet Terje Rypdal.

A brooding piece from Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra and John Surman's heart-rendingly lovely "Doxology" would distinguish any anthology; this one, containing 63 minutes of music at the regular CD price, is strongly recommended to those who have yet to make up their minds about the ECM philosophy.

Richard Williams



Phillips and Murdoch of doing it without showing off — I haven't wielded willow for 36 years and I'm giving them all a champagne lunch, whoever wins," said Phillips. But he hopes for a winning performance from Iris Murdoch, whose new portrait by Phillips is on show at the National Portrait Gallery, as the commentator.

Phoenix rising

The persuasive powers which coaxed personal treasures from rock and pop stars like Pete Townshend and George Michael for last month's auction, which raised a record £27,000 for Phoenix House, the drug rehabilitation charity, have been at work again. Ex-painter David Tomlinson, now Phoenix House's director, has persuaded Saatchi and Saatchi to donate printing and advertising worth £100,000 for a summer campaign to help the charity's current appeal for £5 million.

Simon Tait

OUTINGS

CHAMPIONS FOR CHARITY: Dogathon in aid of the Canine Defence League. Four-mile sponsored walk around the park and an exemption dog show with four pedigree and eight novelty classes. Sponsorship forms may be obtained at the college. Regent's College, Regent's Park, London NW1. Dogathon starts 11am, dog show 1pm. Pedigree registration 50p, novelty 30p.

WELSH NATIONAL STEAM AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW: Gathering of vintage steam engines, early transport and agricultural machinery, old-time fairground, circus acts, heavy horse displays, aerobatics and tug-of-war. Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Powys. Today, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Admission, adult £2.50, child £1.

DOWN ON THE FARM: Activity day for children at this delightful farm museum with demonstrations of spinning, baking, calves and young sheep to be seen plus a scarecrow-making competition. Church Farm Museum, Skegness, Lincs. (0754 66658). Today 10am-5pm. Admission, adult £1.50, child 50p, under-10s free.

WRITTE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OPEN DAY: Farm and garden day with demonstrations of horticultural techniques, a craft fair and many plants for sale. Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford, Essex. Tomorrow 11am-5.30pm. Admission, adult £1.50, child 50p, under-10s free.

Judy Froshaug

CHESS

Original tactics

For some years the British Chess Federation has been producing its own magazine, *Newsflash*. Formerly an amateurish effort, stitched together on a home duplicating machine, *Newsflash* has been transformed into a high-quality, fortnightly glossy publication.

The following impressively-original game is taken from the May 8 issue of *Newsflash*. This covers, among other things, the sparkling result of the British Champion, Jon Speelman, at Beer Sheva, Israel, where he tied for first place with Viktor Korchnoi.

White: Ivan Farago; Black: Jon Speelman. Beer Sheva 1987. Modern Nimzowitsch Defence.

1 d4 Nc6
2 c4 e5
3 Nc3 exd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Bg5 Be7
6 Bxf6 Bxf6
7 e3 d5
8 Bb5+ Nd7
9 Bxd7 Qxd7
10 f3 c6
11 g4 Qc7
12 Qf2 Qd6
13 Qg3 Qe7
14 Qh4 Qf6
15 Qg3 Qe7
16 Qh4 Qf6
17 Qg3 Qe7
18 Qh4 Qf6
19 Qg3 Qe7
20 Qh4 Qf6
21 Qg3 Qe7
22 Qh4 Qf6
23 Qg3 Qe7
24 Qh4 Qf6
25 Qg3 Qe7
26 Qh4 Qf6
27 Qg3 Qe7
28 Qh4 Qf6
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91 Qg3 Qe7
92 Qh4 Qf6
93 Qg3 Qe7
94 Qh4 Qf6
95 Qg3 Qe7
96 Qh4 Qf6
97 Qg3 Qe7
98 Qh4 Qf6
99 Qg3 Qe7
100 Qh4 Qf6

Introduced into Grandmaster practice in the game *Sämisch-Nimzowitsch*, Baden-Baden 1925. This is a highly unusual defence, but one which appeals to Speelman's inventive and combative style. White's best reply is the restrained 2 Nf3.

Raymond Keene

Newsflash costs £12 for a year's subscription and can be ordered from Room 270, The Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool St, London EC2.

BRIDGE

Key to Board-a-Match

The Reisinger Board-a-Match tournament is acknowledged as one of the toughest team tournaments in the world. Yet it was won by a staggering eight boards when the current holders of the world title, Pender, Ross, Stansby and Martel, joined forces with Boyd and Robinson, members of last year's victorious American team in the Rosenblum cup, in Miami.

Some people decry Board-a-Match scoring, but it provides a superb test of discipline and judgment in the bidding combined with accuracy in the play. Here is an example:

Board-a-Match. North-South game. Dealer North.

Declarer covered the ♠Q with the ♠K, losing to the ♠A. Ross returned the ♠3 for Pender to ruff. Pender switched to the ♠4, and Ross was in again when the club finesse lost to his ♠K. The effect of a third spade was to promote Pender's ♠Q, which with the two red aces totalled six tricks for the defence, a 500 penalty and a winning board.

The next hand illustrates the special considerations that arise from Board-a-Match scoring.

Board-a-Match. East-West game. Dealer South.

discouraging by his methods, so West switched to the ♠10, covered by the ♠K and won by East with the ♠A. When East returned the ♠5 and the ♠10 lost to the ♠Q, a two-trick deficit appeared inevitable. But West, confused about the lie of the hearts, switched to the ♠4.

For Martel this reprieve was sufficient. He took the ♠A and cashed five rounds of diamonds, forcing East to reduce to four cards: the ♠K, and three clubs headed by the ♠J. Now came a club from dummy, on which East followed with the ♠3.

Everything turned on who had the ♠6. If it was East, Martel must finesse the ♠7, and then put East on play to give him a further club finesse. Martel rejected this line because if unsuccessful he would go three down.

Furthermore he assessed that even one down would suffice to win this difficult hand. So he played the ♠9, and was delighted to see West's ♠6. Now he could afford the luxury of putting East on play to make his contract.

Yes. That is the guideline for success at Board-a-Match. Never give back an advantage that you have achieved in the early play.

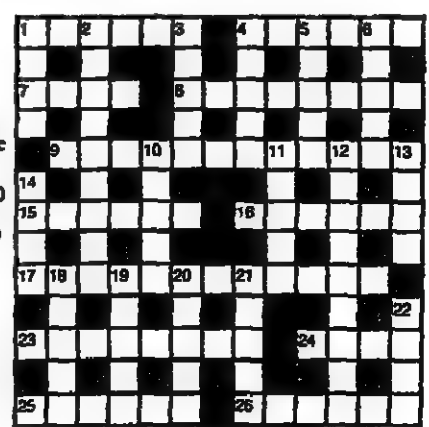
Jeremy Flint

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1270

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, June 4. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, June 6.

ACROSS

- 1 Move (6)
- 4 Most recent (6)
- 7 Effeminate (4)
- 8 With only charm (8)
- 9 1972-84 poet laureate (4,8)
- 15 Swiss/French lake (6)
- 16 Smokeless (6)
- 17 Perplex, confuse (12)
- 23 Follower (8)
- 24 Peak (4)
- 25 Anticipate (6)
- 26 Wrangle (6)



DOWN

- 1 Tailcoat House (3,1)
- 2 Enclosures (9)
- 3 Broad fragment (5)
- 4 Lawful (3)
- 5 Temporary ceasefire (5)
- 6 Sixteen bank (5)
- 10 Not over (5)
- 11 Outing (5)
- 12 Outrageous (9)
- 13 Invalid (4)
- 14 Old (4)
- 18 Cross-reflex (5)
- 19 Daisy-like flower (5)
- 20 Awkward (5)
- 21 Nick (5)
- 22 Scots channel (4)

Entries for last Saturday's Prize Jumbo Crossword must be received by Monday, June 8. The names of the winners and the solution will appear on June 13.

SOLUTION TO NO 1269

ACROSS: 1 Durham 4 Bonded 7 Vows 8 Nightcap 9 Linkman 11 Jibot 12 Prince of Wales 15 Sine 16 Calibre 20 Debonair 21 Soot 22 Eminent 23 Either
DOWN: 1 Develop 2 Rowan 3 Manna 4 Bugs 5 Decibel 6 Deput 10 Macaw 11 Jewel 13 Ignoble 14 Shelter 15 Sedg

Name:

Address:



BOOKS


POET OF LIFE

a subtle and funny observer of the relations between women and men. In her new collection of short stories *Bluebeard's Egg*, the Canadian writer ventures into less conventional topics: a man finds himself surrounded by women who are becoming paler, more silent, and smaller; an artist stalks the men she wants to use as naked models. One of our finest writers in top gear with increasing range and confidence. *Bluebeard's Egg* is published by Cape on Thursday at £10.95.

FILMS ON TV

followed tomorrow by the
Orchestre Nationale de Jazz,
with guest soloist Courtney
Pine.
Tonight and tomorrow, Green
Park Station, Bath (0225
33362).

FILMS ON TV



BENEFIT THE STREET: meet Blackfriars tube, 11am today, £2.50.

GUIDED VISIT TO KENSINGTON PALACE: meet High Street Kensington tube, 2.30pm today, £2.50 plus £2 for entrance to palace.

THE LONDON OF DICKENS AND SHAKESPEARE: meet Blackfriars tube, 11.30am tomorrow, £2.50.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THROUGH THE MILL: A

RED RODNEY: Once Charlie Parker's sideman, the bebop trumpeter gives a free public workshop in London today, followed by club dates.

SAXOPHONE FESTIVAL: Altoist Elton Dean performs duets with the brilliant pianist Keith Tippett.
Tonight, Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 9629).

For TV

the college reactionaries are to such splendid character actors together, the corpulent Willoughby, Harold Innocent and, in a rare effective) non-singing part, Lancelotti. Cambridge is strongly evoked, as the present only three days out of its usual shooting schedule in the city. The locations included Ely, the Inns of London and a private house. The film is polished off two Sharpes, and intends to go on. "They are adult books to do, but I think we

Peter Waymark
 Blue starts a four-part
 season on Channel 4 on Wednesday,
 8:05pm.

THE TIMES / DEC SCHNEIDER COMPETITION

Eastman intends to go on. "They are very difficult books to do, but I think we are starting to get the hang of it. The one everyone would like to see is *Will and I*. I hope that will be next, but perhaps as a feature film rather than for television."

Peter Waymark
Porterhouse Blue starts a four-part serialization on Channel 4 on Wednesday, 10.05-11.05pm.

Television's first hit at the writings of _____ worked on TV. At least the public was _____ *House* but here has the chance for

straighter role as the porter, Scullion. Ageing about 20 years, Jason ends up looking like a cross between Enoch Powell and Harold Wilson.

Though Cambridge is strongly evoked, the unit spent only three days out of its 10-week shooting schedule in the city. The other locations included Ely, the Inns of

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REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SATURDAY

BBC1 WALES 5.30-5.25pm
Sports News Wales
SCOTLAND 5.20-5.25pm Scottish News
NORTHERN IRELAND 5.20-5.25pm
News at Ten, London and Moscow, E. OF E. 100

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

HTV WEST As London ex-
cept 12.35am-12.35am West-
minster and Closedown

HTV WALES As HTV West
except No variation.

SCOTTISH As London ex-
cept 12.35am-12.45am
Highway to Heaven 12.35am
and Call 12.40 Closedown

HTV WEST As London ex-
cept 12.35-12.40 Mar-
ry 11.25pm 12.30 Footage
2.30 West Country Farm 3.00-3.30
Film 'Made in Heaven' 3.00-5.30
Mary 11.25 Boxing 12.35am Closed-
own.

HTV WALES As HTV West
except 2.00pm-4.00pm
Eisteddfod 4.00-4.30 Prince
Charles: The Private Prince 5.00-5.30
For the Evening

TSW As London ex-
Lightlines 1.15-2.40pm
The Love of Adam 5.05 Knight Rider
3.30 Grumbleweeds Show 6.05 Block-
busters 7.35-7.00 ALF 12.35am
Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except 12.35am
King Crimson 1.30 Company,
Closedown.

TVONE TEES As London ex-

YORKSHIRE As London except 5.05pm ALF
 1.30-7.00 Grumbleweeds Show
 2.25am Poetry of the People. Closedown.

LINCOLN As London except
 1.05pm-2.45 Fairs: Campbelt's Kingdom 12.35am
 News, Closedown.

TVS As London except 2.25am-
 3.30 Employment Action!
 1.15pm-2.00 The South Deceals
 2.30 Highway to Heaven 4.15-4.30 Gar-
 ton 12.20am Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except 3.25am-6.30am.
Hello Sunday 1.15pm Farming Outlook 1.45-2.00 P.A. Special Report 2.30pm Highway to Heaven 4.15-4.30 Cartoon 5.00-5.30pm Northern Life 4.15pm Fun 1.58 Epilogue, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except 3.25am-6.30am.
1.15pm Gestic 1.45-2.00 P.A. Cartoon.

WYF 6.30 Extended 9.30 Y Moas
Wharfedale 10.05 Sides Sarad III 11.05
P 10.10 Fm. The Runner Samples
2.50am Cutdown.

SUNDAY

BBC1 WALES 8.55-9.00am
Interval 9.00-9.15 Side Sarad
1.54-7.55

CARTON 1.15pm Getting On 1.45
2.00 Smurfs 2.30 Mellow as Honey
4.15-4.30 Cartoon 5.00-6.30
Sports Results 11.30 Cheffrains in
China 12.25am News, Cutdown.

YORKSHIRE As London ext.
Cartoon 1.15pm Getting On 1.45
2.00 Smurfs 2.30 Mellow as Honey
4.15-4.30 Cartoon 5.00-6.30
Sports Results 12.25am Five Minutes
12.25 Joinerbar 1.25 Cutdown.

SALES Starts 3.00am Hefco 10.00
 World This Week 11.00 Super
 champs 11.50 Owl Service 12.00
 Network 7.00 Film: Soldiers Three
 3.45 Elizabeth 4.35
 Shoulder Arms 4.35
 Morn 8.15 Speedo Race Water
 Meet 7.20 Newyddion 7.30 Cais An Ghar
 8.00 Fo a Fo 8.30 Debrau Can
 Debrau Canol 9.00 Myrhwyl 9.15
 9.30 Syd Ar Bedwr 10.15 Nigrllys
 and Dymal
 11.00

era's 1.40am Closedown.

SUNDAY

Janet McTeer in the title role of *Miss Julie* (1 Theatre Night, BBC2, 10.00pm) with **Patrick Malahide** who plays the valet

tango. Without following
— down the Marxist path

latest Indian cinema
superstar, Mithun
Chakrabarty.

1.00 **The World This Week.**
An analysis of the
outcome of a Middle
East peace conference,
including an interview
with Yitzhak Rabin.

1.00 **Superchamps. (r)**
11.30 **The Owl Service.**
Part two of the
children's drama based
on an old Welsh
legend. (r)

2.00 **Network 7.** The guests
include Samantha Fox,
Boy George, Robbie
Coltrane, Rachel Roberts,
and Gian Sammarco.

2.00 **The Pocket Money
Programme.** Financial
advice for the young
including a discussion on
fan clubs that do not
play fair.

2.30 **Film: There's No
Business Like
Business (1954)**
starring Ethel Merman,
Ivory Berlin musical
following the fortunes of a
group of vaudeuses.
With Donald O'Connor,
Dan Dailey, Johnnie
Ray, Mitz Gaynor, and
Marilyn Monroe.
Directed by Walter Lang.

4.40 **Big Screen Cartoon.**

4.45 **Music.**
Instruments. Keyboard
and percussion. (r)

5.15 **Channel 4 News** and
weather.

5.30 **The Business
Programme.** How much
are the American and
international banks
offering graduates on
the line? And what do
they expect of their
new recruits? Plus, an
interview with Robert
Alexander, new chairman
of the Takeover Panel.

6.15 **News.**

6.15 **The Speedo Fast West.**

7.15 **The World at War.**
The final episode - remember
the dead. (r) (Cracle)

8.15 **Mr Steven Mandrake**
Brings to the East.
The distinguished historian
examines the great
Byzantine and
Ottoman civilizations.

9.10 **The Reason Sleeps:**
The Scar. The last in the
series of
psychological thrillers.
(Cracle)

10.15 **Film: Spellbound***
(1945) starring Gregory
Peck and Ingrid
Bergman. A suspense
thriller about a doctor
who falls for a medical
importer, cures him of
his guilt-induced amnesia
and unmask a
murderer. Directed by
Alfred Hitchcock.
Ends at 11.15.

7.45 *Three East European publishers with presses in the West talk to Nigel Andrews*

7.48 *London Sinfonietta. With Michael Collins (clarinet), Eileen Hulse (soprano), Mary King (mezzo). Britten (Sinfonietta Op 1), Sawden (Le Livre de Faun), Stravinsky (Eight Instrumental miniatures, 1952), Henze (The Miracle of the Rose, 1981)*

8.05 *Frank Bridge: Charles Ibbow (violin) and Nina Lugovoy (piano) play Sonata, 1932*

8.30 *Light in Distant Rooms: Indian poetry by Prabhu Guptara (11) Jewels in the*

Wright's new album includes Clara Schumann's *Prelude and fugue in B flat Op 15 No 2*
10.35 *Ligeti*: South West German Radio SO play *Lontano*
10.50 *No Dialogue*: Richard Howard reads John O'Hara story
11.10 English organ music: Ian Hare plays Stanford's *Fantasia and toccata in D minor Op 57*, and Elgar's *Sonata in G, Op 28*
11.57 News **12.00** Closedown

Wells (2) (3)

9.00 Richard II
News
Concerto. Robin
Pay introduces a record
of the Violin Concerto
by Tchaikovsky, and a piece
by Duke Ellington, and talks
to Nigel Kennedy

10.00 News

10.15 Performing Arts. Like
a Wolf at a Live Hunt.
Feature about the poet
Anne Sexton

11.00 Seeds of Faith. God's
Translators. (4) The G
and King James Bible

11.15 Actually. Initiating a
new group of Samaritan
volunteers

12.00 News; Weather 12.30

7.00-8.00 Open University.
Organic Chemistry 7.20 Soc
Sciences: Grapevine 7.40
Understanding Chemistry 4.
6.00 Options 4.00 Convers
with Domingo 4.30 Educat
Matters 5.00 Out in the
Community 5.30 Paco Pena
Cordoba

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Liberals fear Owen 'bias'

Continued from page 1

that Labour's steady rise in the polls after that statement was made, with Mr Neil Kinnock's strong personal start to the campaign, undermined the Alliance's credibility.

However, they now believe that with the Conservative onslaught against Labour's defence policy apparently bearing fruit, Labour's advance has been set for them to repeat their original charge and to make a renewed effort to replace Labour as the alternative opposition.

They believe that the Labour vote is softer than the Tories and with about 40 per cent of the population yet to make a final decision about whom to support there is everything to play for, including winning the votes of Tories "with a social conscience" who would not vote Alliance if they thought Labour could win.

Labour's determination to move the election agenda on to social issues, particularly education, was signalled yesterday by Mr Bryan Gould, their campaign coordinator.

"I believe it is education which has been a growing issue of this campaign. We certainly intend to focus attention on education."

His comments came on the day when Tory strategists were dismissing as "another Labour dirty trick" a press advertisement which reads: "The Tories plan to let state schools charge fees if they want to. If you don't want to pay, don't vote Tory."

Although at the fumbling launch of the Conservative radical education policies just over a week ago, Mrs Margaret Thatcher did not rule out such a possibility, it has since been categorically denied by both her and Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

A similar advertisement will appear in tomorrow's newspapers.

The Labour Party will maintain its attack on the Prime Minister. The slogan "10 more years" which has appeared at Mrs Thatcher's rallies is to be used as the basis of campaign focussing on what "10 more years of Thatcherism" would mean to the country.

70th birthday vigil in memory of JFK



President John F. Kennedy would yesterday have celebrated his seventieth birthday, had he survived Lee Harvey Oswald's bullet. To mark the occasion, his sister-in-law Ethel, the widow of Senator Robert Kennedy, and two of her daughters knelt in prayer at his memorial in Arlington Cemetery, Washington. They were accompanied by the family nurse Ena Bernard, and the blessings were administered by Fr Jerry Creeden.

Plane dodges radar and lands in Red Square

Continued from page 1

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, said last night that one of his colleagues had witnessed the touchdown in Moscow on Thursday.

Asked if Herr Rust, a computer operator, had been arrested, Mr Gerasimov said: "I can only speculate. If you cross the Soviet border without permission, it's only natural to think you'll be detained. But it's just my guess."

Early yesterday the plane stood behind barricades at the south end of the massive cobblestone square where it had landed, about 100ft from the Kremlin Wall. Western journalists saw Soviet militiamen towing it out of the city centre later.

Western experts estimated that Herr Rust flew at around 50ft to 100ft to avoid being detected by Soviet defence radar during his 580-mile journey from Helsinki to Moscow. Witnesses said the young pilot narrowly missed the roof



of Moscow's famous old department store Gum before landing.

According to witnesses, Herr Rust was given a hero's welcome from the astonished crowd that gathered round the plane.

Herr Rust had arrived in Finland on May 25 from Bergen in Norway. He stayed in a small hotel and left with a woman passenger. Some re-

ports from Moscow yesterday said that a woman was in the plane when it landed in Red Square.

In a West German television interview yesterday, Herr Rust's father, Herr Karl Heinz Rust, said he strongly doubted that the trip to Moscow was politically motivated.

In Bonn, a West German Government spokesman said: "It appears this involves a

pilot who has made a mistake" in navigation, against any cruise missile or stand-off weapon attack. They will want to study the exact route the aircraft took to establish any potential weak spots in the defences.

Western military authorities were quietly delighted last night that the air defences surrounding Leningrad and Moscow had proved so easy to

beat, despite vast improvements installed recently by the Russians in an effort to defend the coast.

There are huge radars all along the coast capable of seeing at least 500 miles, each overlapping the other to provide cover in the event of any one system breaking down.

Behind those, along the route taken by the Cessna, are dozens of smaller radar systems, each linked to a fighter control unit giving complete coverage from low to high level with mobile radars providing back-up. Should these spot an intruder, a quick reaction force of heavily armed fighters is supposed to intercept within minutes.

What must worry the Russians most is that the Cessna, itself bigger than any cruise missile which may be launched against them, remained undetected right up to the centre of Moscow. Even though it was flying low, the Russians were confident that nothing could penetrate even the outer ring

Campaign sketch

Making a meal of a day's canvassing

"May I jump the queue for a couple of frankfurters, girls?" "Have you got the sausages, Cyril?" "Just getting them, mother."

Cyril Smith was out shopping for his dinner before getting down to proper canvassing in the afternoon. He was striding in front through Rochdale market, while his younger brother Norman, up until last week the Lord Mayor of Rochdale, was pushing his 83-year-old mother in her wheelchair behind.

First stop was Billy Duff Cooked Meats. "A bit of tongue, no, make that two bits, and not too thin. You've cut it thick have you? Good lad!" After buying half a pound of beef spread, the three moved to Collins' Biscuits Stall. "Hiya, girls!" "Hello, Cyril!" They all wanted Liberal stickers for their lapels.

Cyril ordered some Walkers Shortbread, Chocolate Chips, Almond Cookies, and "mix us a pound of chocolate biscuits, love."

"What you doin', Cyril?" said his mother from her wheelchair.

"Just getting the chocolate biscuits, mother."

"Don't forget the chocolate biscuits!" replied his mother. "And give me a pound of mixed creams."

"What you doin'?" "Getting a pound of mixed creams."

"Are we all right for cream crackers?" "Jacobs or Crawford, mother?" "Jacobs."

Putting eight different packets of biscuits into his carrier bag, Cyril strode on. Everyone seemed to recognize him, and more unusually for a politician, he recognized them. "Aye!" he would say in passing to youngsters, "how are ye, old son?" to the older generation.

A woman came up and said that her daughter had got a job as registrar at the college. "Ah, we went to tea there, mother," said Cyril. "I said, 'D'you remember?'"

Like many people, she told Cyril she'd be voting for him. "That's kind of you, love," he said. "Tell you what, come half past ten Sunday to a great big rally if you want - David

Steel, Shirley Williams, five other Liberals. Be smashing!" The procession came to a halt as mother chatted to a lady friend from her days when she cleaned the town hall. To one side, the friend's daughter asked Cyril how his mother was. "She's proud of you, she's proud of both of you. And every reason to be!"

Cyril then got chatting to a young woman in a wheelchair about her disability allowance, saying cheery with "well done, love. Keep going, kid."

And on to the Bacon Stall. "They never have trotters now, do they, Norman?" Cyril shouted back to Norman. "No, they never have trotters now," agreed Norman. "Do I usually have creamy or crumbly?" he asked the girl serving the cheese. "Crumbly, Cyril."

More cheese from Jill's Cheese Pantry. "Some gorgonzola, please, love. D'ye sell chutney? A jar of chutney, oh, and a jar of pickles, and one of your Stiltons."

An elderly woman recalled her recent golden wedding anniversary party. "It was all right, weren't it, kid?" said Cyril.

He stopped at Stocks sweet stall. "What sort of toffees do you want, mother?" "I'm all right with toffees."

Cyril bought a quarter of chocolates for himself and squeezed them into one of the two carrier bags.

An old man came up and shook Cyril's hand. "Last time I saw you was at Fred Kershaw's funeral," he said. "Aye," said Cyril, holding him by the shoulder. "I told your daughter her husband was dying. Fred and I used to play together as kids."

Two young women passed by eating sticky buns. "You'll finish up like me, girl!" said Cyril. They giggled and walked on.

Norman and mother had got chatting to someone else. "Come on, I'm movin' now, Norman, or I won't get me dinner in time, so I shan't get out campaignin' this afternoon!" shouted Cyril.

On the way out, the smell of hot potatoes from Ye Olde Lancashire Oven was too much to bear. "Tell you what," said Cyril, "we'll have a bag of those for our dinner too."

Craig Brown

Royal Academy uncovers the Prince's artful secret

Continued from page 1

most of the small pictures are in the Small South Room, the Prince's efforts is unobtrusively placed among more imposing works.

Mr Roger de Grey, the president of the Royal Academy, said yesterday: "It is a modest, serious work which in my view is a work of quite considerable talent."

Mr de Grey may have recognized the Prince's style

because he said yesterday that he had been very impressed by two of the Prince's pictures which have been on view at the Royal Watercolour Society exhibition at the Bankside Gallery, Hopton Street, central London, since the beginning of the month.

The Prince is an honorary member of the society, but this was the first year that he had submitted pictures for show.

Professor Norman Adams, Keeper of the Royal Academy and as such tutor to Prince Charles's art student cousin, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, who herself has two pictures in the academy show, said of the Prince's picture: "It is quite a nice little water colour, modest certainly, but there is nothing wrong with that."

Mr Leonard Rosoman, one of the academy's senior bankers and joint chairman of the

hanging committee, said: "This is an absolutely OK water-colour and just the thing for an immature artist at this stage of his career to be doing."

Prince Charles has been a keen painter for several years, but often complains he gets too few opportunities to brush up his technique.

Last year he went to Florence on a short painting holiday with Lady Sarah. The

pictures in the Royal Watercolour Society show, which closes on Sunday, are called "Valdemossa" and "Port Suez".

The Prince's painting teacher, Mr Martin Yeoman, who has three pictures elsewhere in the academy show, accompanied the Prince on the royal visit to Oman last year and went on a three-day cruise to Cyprus afterwards to let the Prince improve his technique.

After hearing that *The Times* had unmasked Arthur George Carrick, the Royal Academy said last night: "Buckingham Palace has now confirmed to us that the artist is in fact Prince Charles."

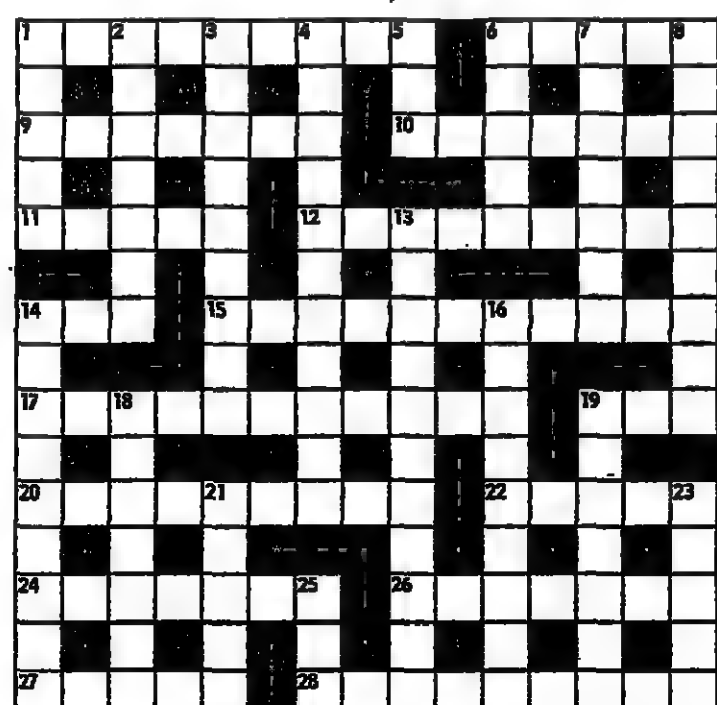
"The academy would like to congratulate His Royal Highness on his success with his first entry for our show, and to thank him for sending us a work of such high quality."



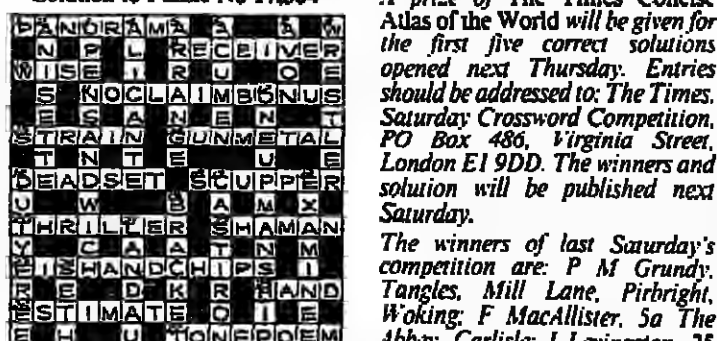
The Prince painting a view on the River Dee in 1985.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17370

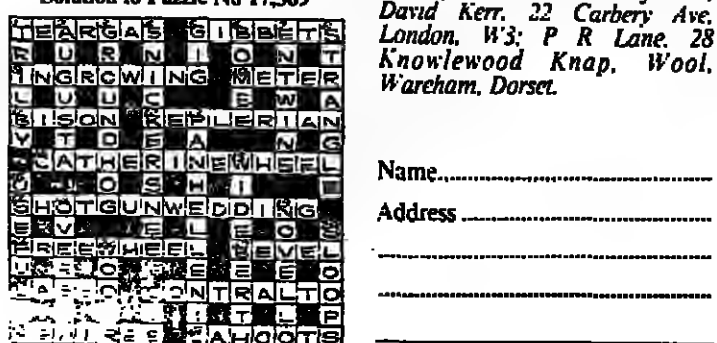
- ACROSS**
- Squak to bring telephone conversation to an end (5,4).
 - Among aces, a king (5).
 - Los Angeles can put in a team that's withdrawn at the start (7).
 - Fancy a little cry (7).
 - Only half is grasped by school-marmish governess (5).
 - Oarsmen - several dance (9).
 - Has the ability to stir (3).
 - No sentry had to be ordered to have a shot (3,4,4).
 - Reconstruction of crime - all pay for mystery drama (7,4).
 - Some members of a club are lawyers (3).
 - Strange chap - he's joined a society (9).
 - Share a great deal, so to speak (5).
 - Fancy one soldier wearing long hair (7).
 - Pretend to understand (4,3).
 - List of competitors with two, three or four points (5).
 - Projected into the future, half the capital is applied to farm buildings (4,5).
- DOWN**
- Flute used to lure men to sea (5).
 - Lily's relation accepts good advice from counsel (7).
 - Mysterious giant mice on the loose (9).
 - An expression of dissatisfaction from everyone in good health (3,4,4).
 - Deep blue... (3).
 - Love-in-a-mist given water (5).
 - Official document turned up among freedom fighters in interment (7).
 - Slip up, entering separate submission (9).
 - Information a couple of chaps get about the French ladies (1,1).
 - A flower - make something up about it (9).
 - A threat to planes - Reykjavik's six missing, 100 damaged (9).
 - Smiling and laughing about commercial (7).
 - Where speech can appear all in favour (7).
 - She takes the road into the city (5).
 - It's included in the benefit of clergy (5).
 - Amour taken by one given short measure (5).



Solution to Puzzle No 17364



Solution to Puzzle No 17369



A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: *The Times*, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: P M Grundy, Tangles, Mill Lane, Pirbright, Woking; F MacAllister, 50 The Abbey, Carlisle; J Livingston, 25 Factory Lane, Peel, Isle of Man; David Kerr, 22 Carbery Ave, London, W3; P R Lane, 28 Knowlewood Knap, Wool, Wareham, Dorset.

Name.....

Address.....

Concise crossword, page 19

WEATHER

Most areas will begin cloudy, with showers - heavy rain at times in north-east England and north and east Scotland. Outside the south-east and East Anglia there will be some hill and coastal fog patches, but everywhere except the north-east should see brighter, sunnier periods later. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: A cooler showery airstream will affect all parts except northern Scotland where cloudy conditions with more persistent rain will continue. Showers dying out in the west on Monday.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Wind
Scarbrough	2.1	1.1	48	48	drizzle
London	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Cardiff	1.4	1.4	54	48	rain
Manchester	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Edinburgh	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Belfast	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Sheffield	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Nottingham	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Leeds	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Bradford	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
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Doncaster	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
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Sheff Hallam	2.3	1.4	54	48	rain
Doncaster	2.3	1.4	54	48	

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1712.1 (+33.9)

FT-SE 100

2203.0 (+45.6)

Bargains

53598 (39988)

USM (Datastream)

179.72 (+1.03)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.6285 (+0.0025)

W German mark

2.9671 (+0.0127)

Trade-weighted

72.7 (+0.2)

Sunleigh's
Dale bid
undecided

The board of Sunleigh Electronics and its adviser Singer & Friedlander were locked in discussions last night over the fate of its £15.8 million bid for Dale Electric.

The indications were that an announcement as to the result of the offer would not be made until Monday morning. Although the 100bp cash option was withdrawn at yesterday's 3pm "closing" date, it is understood that Sunleigh can still extend its share exchange offer by another two weeks.

News credit

News Securities BV, a subsidiary of the media group News Corporation of Australia, is seeking a \$125 million (£76.8 million), five-year revolving credit. Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, the lead manager, said the credit would be targeted at a selected group of European banks. Drawings will be at 1% per cent over the London interbank offered rate during the first two years, with the margin rising to 1% per cent thereafter. The commitment fee is 1/4 per cent.

Buying brisk

Sales at John Lewis Partnership, a barometer of activity in the high street, rose strongly earlier this month at the department stores and Waitrose, the partnership's food group. Brisk buying over the bank holiday weekend helped boost total sales for the 16th week of the year to £32 million, 12.1 per cent higher

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2312.35 (+1.67)
Dow Jones	2312.35 (+1.67)
Tokyo	24772.38 (+338.74)
Hong Kong	2919.70 (+31.11)
Amsterdam	287.0 (+0.3)
Sydney	1771.3 (+27.2)
Frankfurt	1789.8 (+0.8)
Brussels	4553.4 (+24.7)
Paris	1097.29 (+19.02)
Zurich	520.40 (+0.20)
London	1712.1 (+33.9)
FT 30	2203.0 (+45.6)
FT 100	2203.0 (+45.6)
FT 1000	2203.0 (+45.6)

Recent issues

Closing prices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER	
Nash Inds.	253p (+23p)
Pittsburgh	87p (+23p)
Alphabetic	385p (+24p)
Amstrad	224p (+17p)
Grand Met.	554p (+12p)
TV South	337p (+14p)
Argyll Group	472p (+18p)
Deputy Packaging	585p (+70p)
Boots	312p (+14p)
Deats Virella	657p (+17p)
Pentland	990p (+15p)
Glaxo	700p (+22p)
Energy Capital	58p (+15p)
Net West	657p (+14p)
Regent Crest	143p (+17p)

FALLS

Dale Electric

Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month Interbank	8 1/2-8 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/2-8 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.69-5.67%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-101

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.6285	\$1.6285
DM1.9671	DM1.9671
SwF2.4590	SwF2.4590
FF9.9931	FF9.9931
Yen144.05	Yen144.05
Index101.9	Index101.9
ECU 10.70991	ECU 10.70991

GOLD

London	New York
AM \$451.75 pm \$451.00	AM \$451.75 pm \$451.00
close \$451.50-452.00 (\$277.50-278.00)	close \$451.50-452.00 (\$277.50-278.00)
New York	New York
Comex \$450.90-451.40	Comex \$450.90-451.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July)	pm \$18.45 bbl (\$18.47)
Denotes latest trading price	

Stock Market

Wall Street

Money Markets

Commodities

Treasury Bonds

Treasury Notes

Treasury Bills

Share Prices

Election fever
spurs marketPoll hopes spark an
£8bn spending spree

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

Investors went on a massive £8 billion spending spree on the London stock market yesterday, sending share prices soaring as the odds on a Conservative victory continued to shorten.

The buyers came flooding back to the market-place, prompted by the latest opinion polls showing the Conservatives extending their lead over the Labour Party. As a result, the FT index of top 30 shares enjoyed its biggest-ever one-day rise in terms of points, closing 33.9 points higher at 1,712.1 — just 6.9 below its all-time high. Its rise during the long, three-week trading account — which ended yesterday — is 53.4 points, or 3.2 per cent. The broader FT-SE 100 also finished 45.6 points higher at 2,203.0.

An estimated £26.13 billion has now been added to the value of quoted shares since the local government elections in early May and most dealers they could go higher in the run-up to polling day.

Much of yesterday's buying was led by the big City fund managers, who are convinced

that confirmation of a third term of office for Mrs Thatcher would be the signal for another surge of buying by foreign investors.

The privatization stocks enjoyed solid support with dealers reporting heavy turnover in the shares of British Gas, British Airways and British Telecom — all of which recorded solid gains. But double-figure rises among the rest of the blue chips stocks were not uncommon.

One leading stockbroker commented: "The political stocks are back in fashion. They are the ones the overseas buyers will be looking at once the result of the election is known."

Dealers are now placing a

great deal of faith in the level of overseas money which is expected to pour into London's markets once the election is out of the way. The British economy is said to be booming and, with interest rates still higher than most of the big industrialized nations, brokers expect the tide of money which has been built up abroad to be directed towards London.

The new trading account, starting on Monday, will include polling day on June 11 and is seen by some institutions as the last chance of making more money on the outcome of the election result. Dealers reported plenty of new-time support.

The pound put up a steady performance on the foreign exchanges and seems to have recovered from its bout of nerves earlier this week, which saw it lose ground against the dollar.

Sterling finished the day 28 points higher at \$1.6285 and a few pence stronger at DM2.9671. Its value against a basket of currencies was 0.2 up at 72.7.

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FT 30 INDEX

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BankAmerica chief says reserves are sufficient

San Francisco (Reuters) — Mr. AW (Tom) Clausen, chairman of BankAmerica, said his banking group has sufficient provisions for bad foreign loans, but will follow other banks and boost its loan loss reserves if necessary.

Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, two other leading banks, have announced sharp increases in the money they put aside to protect themselves against loans that may go bad.

Citicorp is adding \$3 billion (£1.8 billion), while Chase is to boost its reserves by \$1.6 billion. Banking analysts say other banks with huge Third World debt exposures are likely to follow suit.

BankAmerica, the nation's second largest bank, is among the most heavily exposed US banks to Third World debt, with total loans of \$6.7 billion.

It is because of problems with these loans, as well as in energy and real estate, that BankAmerica has posted huge losses in recent quarters.

It lost \$518 million in 1986, and posted a \$67 million profit in the first quarter of 1987 only because of one-time gains.

BankAmerica was among the banks hit by Brazil's announcement in February that it would suspend payments on \$68 billion in loans to foreign banks.

At the end of the first quarter, BankAmerica put \$1.9 billion of Brazilian loans on a cash basis, meaning that interest payments are credited only when received. This cut earnings for the quarter by \$40 million.

In a statement prepared for the company's annual meeting, Mr. Clausen said: "We are continuing to monitor conditions in the developing countries, together with industry trends, and will adjust our reserves if appropriate." He added, however, that BankAmerica's loan loss reserves were appropriate for its loan portfolio.

BankAmerica's loan loss reserves stood at \$2.2 billion, equal to 3.16 per cent of its loans, as of March 31.

This is higher than many other banks, and is only slightly below the 4.1 per cent reserve ratio for Chase and the 3.7 per cent reserve at Citicorp after their huge additions to reserves.



Clausen: 'We will adjust our reserves if appropriate'

'Robust' start for Burmah Oil

Mr John Maltby, the chairman of Burmah Oil, told yesterday's annual meeting that 1987 had opened in a most robust fashion. The high margins achieved in 1986 were holding up well and, with world economic growth continuing, the board had every confidence of again reporting strong results. Burmah will concentrate on areas where it has already established credentials.

The focus will be on the expansion and growth of marketing activities, although it also sees the LNG operation as an important part of group, providing an assured cash-flow up to and beyond the end of the century.

Burmah had the financial capacity to invest substantially in chosen areas. The priority will be to invest in

COMPANY NEWS

businesses it has, Mr Maltby said. It can also invest in other businesses, but these will be related to ones it is in at present.

QUEEN'S MOAT HOUSES. Mr John Bairstow, the chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that the favourable conditions of last year had continued into 1987. Management accounts for the first four months of the current year showed a worthwhile advance on last time and were ahead of 1987 budget.

Mr Bairstow declared that, bearing in mind the 47 per cent increase in bedroom capacity that was added last year was moving into full profitability, the indications were that the company was set for another record year.

LONDON & EDINBURGH TRUST: This rapidly growing

property development company, which has been spreading its wings through offices in America, France, Germany and Holland, is planning to open a new office to service the Pacific Basin. Mr John Beckwith, the chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday that the company hoped to announce the opening of the new office, which will be administered from Hong Kong, shortly.

London & Edinburgh. which made its name with big, City office developments such as Billingsgate and Ropemaker Place, has been performing well recently. Pretax profits leapt by 64 per cent to a record £15.1 million last year. Mr Beckwith said that the new wave of representative offices abroad were part of the company's strategy to spread the risk of its international property development and investment programme as widely as possible so that an economic downturn in one country could be offset by a boom in another part of the world.

RECKITT & COLMAN: The chairman is now Sir Michael Colman.

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CHAMBERLIN & HILL. This company, which has interests in foundries and electrical engineering, lifted its pretax profits from £531,000 to £580,000 in the year to March 31. Given improved order books, the company is expecting a further significant boost in profits this year. Turnover edged up to £11.69 million from £11.36 million, and a 0.5p rise in the final dividend, to 2.6p, makes 4p in all, compared with 3.5p last year. Chamberlin has just emerged from a rough patch in its long history. Last autumn, it completed the final stage of a three-year rationalization programme during which it aimed production from seven sites to four.

RECKITT & COLMAN: The chairman is now Sir Michael Colman.

Shield pays £7.48m for estate agency

By Michael Tate
Shield Group, the north London property developer backed by Mr Gerald Rouson, is paying up to £7.48 million for Stickleby & Kent, the London estate agency with five offices.

Two months ago Mr Rouson demonstrated his faith in the Stickleby's position when his Heron Corporation provided it with £10 million of revolving loans, and subscribed £2 million for preference shares and options on ordinary shares.

The Stickleby purchase will be satisfied by an issue of shares, of which 1.77 million will be placed by Capel-Cure Myers, raising £5.75 million for the vendors.

Shield shareholders are being offered these shares at 325p each on the basis of five new shares for every three held.

Shield's directors are also selling 1.2 million of their own shares, reducing their combined holdings from 80.9 per cent to 50 per cent of the

enlarged capital, and raising a further £2 million for the company through the issue of 777,000 new shares.

The placing price of 325p compares with a stock market price of 367p yesterday and a 72p placing price last July.

Meanwhile, Shield yesterday unveiled pretax profits of £1.06 million for the year to March 31, compared with £631,000 in the previous year. A 2p final dividend makes 3p for the year.



Gerald Rouson

TEMPUS

A taxing problem for Contibel

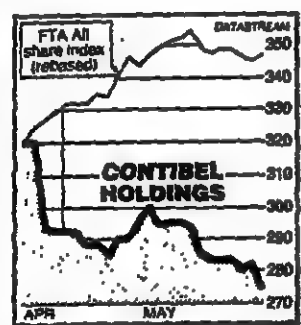
Are shareholders in Contibel being threatened by the biggest shareholders — or are they simply being persuaded of the hopelessness of their situation?

Earlier this week, Tractebel and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert (GBL), who own 29.5 per cent of Contibel between them, posted their formal offer document for the company, which was formed to hold the Belgian interests of Imperial Continental Gas. It makes interesting reading.

Their offer of 278p a share is at a significant 22 per cent discount to the 22 valuation in the offer document of 358p a share, and at a small premium of 7 per cent to the lower valuation of 259p a share.

The main elements making up the difference between the two valuations are the amounts due from the liquidators of Contibel's former parent, estimated at around 9p a share, and a potential British capital gains tax liability of 89p if the portfolio were to be sold by its British owners.

In seeking to justify an offer at the low end of the range, the bidders point not only to the disadvantageous capital gains tax situation, which only arises on the sale of assets, but also to the



penalties of paying dividends out of overseas income, since the advance corporation tax will be irrecoverable.

The best way of overcoming the tax problem is to diversify into British assets, but the Belgians have stated that this way out is not available to Contibel, because if their offer is not accepted, they will block any attempts to diversify.

In the hands of the Belgians, on the other hand, Contibel's interests are a valuable asset. Its tax position will be greatly improved as the ACT problem will vanish, and the new owners will be well placed to get valuable reliefs against capital gains tax.

More importantly, the bidders will be consolidating their already firm grip on the Belgian utility sector, bringing

economies of scale and giving them greater control.

The British shareholders are understandably aggrieved at the strong-arm tactics being used to force them to surrender Contibel at a giveaway price.

The Belgians' 29.5 per cent stake will no doubt deter other bidders. But yesterday's share price movement, up 6p to 284p, suggests that they may not have it all their own way.

Japanese markets

One fund management group has described last week's announcement that 17 foreign companies are to be given licences to act as investment managers in the Tokyo market as "crumbs from the rich man's table".

But this was not a complaint that the Japanese were up to their usual tricks of apparently dispensing largesse while in reality giving nothing away at all — because when the rich man is inordinately rich and his table is groaning with the fat of the land, then the crumbs that fall can be more than mere titbits.

never good for earnings or distributable reserves.

Now, the trend is towards dispensing with the creation of a share premium account, obviating the need to disclose the amount of either the goodwill or share premium. And for good measure, some companies even go so far as to write down the assets acquired, creating a "reorganization reserve" to further flatter future earnings and return on capital.

So it comes as no surprise

The comment was instead a reference to the very substantial pension funds accumulating profits from which foreigners are excluded. These are still the preserve of the trust banks and the stockbrokers respectively although the ministry of welfare in Japan has sent out strong signals that the pension fund monopoly will be broken next year.

The foreign managers, including Fidelity, Jardine Fleming, S G Warburg, and GT Management will score in offering investment advice in the smaller US companies and in the European stockmarkets, including the UK.

Some firms, like GT Management, also offer expertise in other Pacific Rim countries.

Most Japanese investment overseas has previously been in bonds, which the Japanese feel happy to manage themselves, and the large capitalization US companies.

They can now afford to become more adventurous. It may take time but the management groups are confident that they will complete successfully for some sizeable crumbs and even, ultimately, get a slice of the cake.

In the meantime, acquiring companies can continue to make hay as the sun is unlikely to stop shining much before 1990.

Ferguson Industrial profits up

Pretax profits of Ferguson Industrial Holdings, the printing, packaging and plastics group, rose from £7.5 million to £9.4 million in the year to February 28.

The sale of investments made a £1.4 million contribution, against £244,000 in 1986, while the company reported extraordinary losses below the line of £4.2 million. These were in respect of business closures or disposals and were partially offset by related tax benefits of £2.3 million.

Turnover shrank to £89.95 million from £150.58 million last year. Earnings per share rose from 16.9p to 22.6p.

The company is paying a final dividend of 5.9p, lifting the year's total from 7.9p to 9p.

Ferguson reported that its two recent acquisitions — Empery Corporation, the US group and Berisford, the textile company — have made satisfactory contributions to profits in the first two months of the current year.

£5.6m call by London Securities

London Securities, the revamped property group, almost quadrupled its profits in the year to end-March from £414,000 to £1,603,000 and is raising £5.6 million through a combined rights issue and placing.

The company, which was once known as Amalgamated Estates and suffered years of losses, earned £1.01 million from real estate over the period, against £975,000. But income from investment and property sales rose £4 million to £8.67 million.

Shareholders, who still have no dividend, are being offered two shares for every seven held at 54p.

The funds raised will pay for the company's purchase in March of a 10.55 per cent holding in EPIC.

Albion in profit fall

Albion, the Belfast clothing manufacturer, yesterday reported a decline in profits before tax — from £243,000 to £194,000 in the half year to end-March.

The company's shares fell 3p to 69p after the announcement. It has made a profit of £63,000 on the sale of its factory in Leeds although the income from this was taken below the line.

Turnover was £3.4 million (£3.2 million) and earnings per share 3.35p (6.16p). It is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.8p.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Scepticism galore over Japan's £25bn boost

The fiscal expansion programme announced yesterday in Japan was greeted with a scepticism so predictable that the Japanese foreign ministry had already asked everyone to believe what it nominally offered: an injection of £25 billion. The previous £15 billion programme relied too much on local authorities and private firms that failed to fulfill government plans.

The numbers are certainly bigger this time. They amount to a 1.8 per cent boost to GNP virtually in a single year. That is equivalent to a £7 billion immediate boost to Britain's public sector borrowing requirement.

The package also includes apparently straightforward elements such as £4 billion in income tax cuts. A similar amount will be spent in a one-off budgetary provision on special government imports, of predominantly US goods, to appease Congressional protectionists. But it remains a traditional Japanese package, concentrating on bringing forward national and local capital spending plans.

Scepticism stems from Japanese forecasters rather than from suspicious foreigners. They point to hardly perennial such as £2 billion for disaster relief, by definition less than firm. So it would be unwise to expect this grand plan to boost Japan's growth by more than about 1 per cent, let alone lead to an untoward boost to imports. Japan's trade surplus does not appear to be slowing down, but chiefly because the high yen is damaging manufactured exports.

Whatever discount is applied, however, Japan is at least doing its bit towards the coordination of policy in front of the Venice summit in 10 days' time. The plan to recycle funds to developing countries, again not as dramatic as it at first appeared, is also helpful.

President Reagan, however, made a rousing speech hours before the package was announced, saying he would veto any Congressional demands to raise the American people's taxes. Unless this wording is misleading, rapid cuts in the US budget deficit would not seem likely.

Over in Europe, the Germans have showed some willingness to soften monetary policy, their previous no-go area. But this is purely linked to worries about the strength of the mark. A further cut in central bank interest rates will probably only occur if the dollar starts falling sharply against the mark again. Clayton Yeutter, the President's trade representative, yesterday reiterated the obvious conclusion that few initiatives should be expected from the summit.

That is acceptable but only on the assumption that the international house is basically weatherproof. The latest OECD forecasts hardly justify complacency. Projections of industrial country growth this year and next were cut from 2.75 to 2.5 per cent, even less after the subsequent dollar fall. That is hardly catastrophic but means the world economy could easily teeter back into recession if one or two things went

wrong, especially anything that destabilized currencies further.

The best hope, as the OECD suggested, is that member governments will do what they have already pledged.

Punting on the polls

The stock markets were at their most simplistic yesterday. They are banking heavily on a third Thatcher term. Public opinion polls that suggest either a Labour victory or a hung Parliament will send prices down; public opinion polls pointing to a Conservative hat-trick, as demonstrated yesterday, will push prices higher. Punting on the polls, until polling day itself, is the name of the market game.

After June 11, the economic issues, which have so far received little attention either in party manifestos, in speeches and at press conferences, will again come to the fore. In particular the issue which Labour and Alliance speakers, to be fair, have raised with some vigour, namely Britain's industrial and trading performance. The stark truth is that our share of world markets for manufactured goods and services has fallen from more than 25 per cent in 1950 to less than a third of that figure.

The decline in manufacturing is the most startling fact of our economic condition. Since 1980, a trade surplus in manufactured goods of £5 billion has disappeared. Arithmetically it has been replaced by North Sea oil revenues but this source of wealth will diminish, leaving services to fill the gap which even on the most optimistic view they cannot do. As half our spending on manufactures already goes on imported goods, we badly need a manufacturing revival.

There are rays of hope. The economy is growing at a faster rate than in most other, comparable industrial countries. Largely as a result of the grim process of shutting down older plants and eliminating jobs, productivity has improved. But as Sir Edwin Nixon, chairman of IBM United Kingdom, properly said in his lecture "Surviving in the 21st Century", optimism should be restrained.

Between 1964 and 1985 the British economy grew by 51 per cent; the US by 89 per cent; the French by 105 per cent; the West German by 113 per cent; and the Japanese by 268 per cent.

"That is the reality we all must come to terms with in Britain. An economic profile which indicates a process of relative decline in performance which began decades, perhaps more than a century, ago. Not a handful of years; and a trading environment in which we must operate in the future, in which national standards of improved performance are just not going to be good enough in the future."

Sir Edwin, like many other practitioners and pundits, has his ideas of how best to meet the challenge; and as you would expect, he is particularly perceptive on the significance of high technology for the performance and indeed the structure of modern manufacturing.

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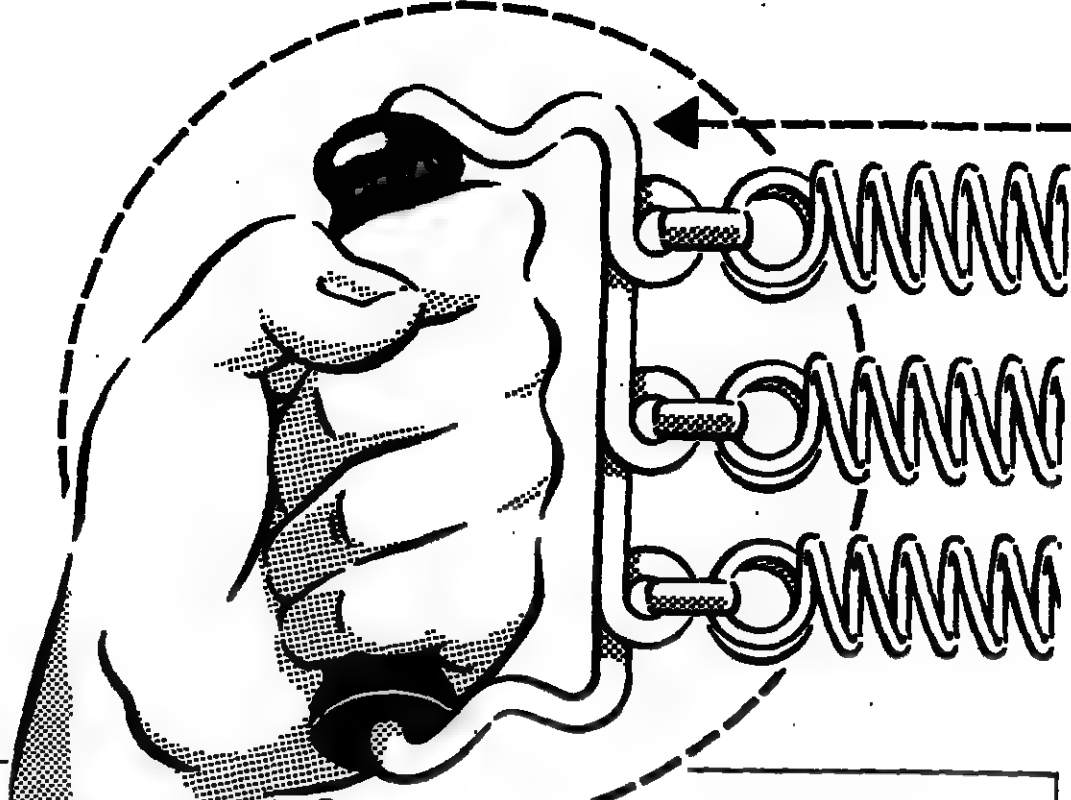
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43.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
43.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
44.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
44.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
45.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
45.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
46.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
46.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
47.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
47.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
48.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
48.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
49.0	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0
49.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	51.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
SP	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
12	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
13	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
14	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
15	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
16	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
17	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
18	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
19	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
20	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
21	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
22	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
23	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
24	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
25	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
26	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
27	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
28	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
29	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
30	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
31	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
32	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
33	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
34	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
35	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
36	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
37	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
38	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
39	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
40	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
41	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
42	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
43	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
44	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
45	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
46	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
47	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
48	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
49	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
50	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
51	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
52	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
53	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
54	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
55	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
56	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
57	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
58	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
59	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
60	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
61	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
62	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
63	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
64	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
65	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
66	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
67	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
68	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
69	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
70	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
71	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
72	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
73	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
74	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
75	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
76	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
77	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
78	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
79	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
80	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
81	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
82	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
83	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
84	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
85	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
86	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
87	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
88	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
89	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
90	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
91	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
92	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
93	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
94	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
95	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
96	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
97	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
98	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
99	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
100	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50

A better prospect for higher rate tax payers.



The New Charterhouse BES Fund

Charterhouse has a long-standing reputation for finding better-managed British companies and for helping them to maximise their growth potential. Already a leader in BES Funds, Charterhouse now has £17.3m invested in 36 companies. Furthermore, all of our four existing Funds were fully invested within their respective tax years. We now introduce our fifth Charterhouse BES Fund, called CHEF V, which will again provide the private investor with an exceptional investment opportunity.

Greater Tax Efficiency

Full Income Tax relief can be claimed on the amount you invest in CHEF V and provided the full income

Tax relief is still available there is no Capital Gains Tax when you first sell shares subscribed by the Fund. Thus, a considerable saving can be achieved on this extremely cost-effective and potentially rewarding investment.

The Charterhouse Advantage

It is the quality of the investments chosen that makes the difference. For over 50 years Charterhouse has been investing successfully in unquoted companies. By seeking out those that have more mature management and greater growth potential, we can increase your opportunity for maximum returns.

Act Now!

CHEF V will be strictly limited to £5 million and preference will be given to last year's Fund investors. So, act now to secure your allocation, as final date for receipt of applications is 6th July 1987. The maximum investment is £40,000, the minimum only £2,000. Copies of the Memorandum and Application Form can be obtained at branches of The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, or by ringing 01-248 4000 during office hours, or 01-329 4607 (24 hours a day). Or, just return the coupon (no stamp required).

The Charterhouse Business Expansion Fund 1987/88 is a fund approved by the Inland Revenue under the terms of the Finance Act 1983. Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe to the Fund. Applications to subscribe will be accepted only on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum describing the Fund. The Managers of the Charterhouse Business Expansion Fund 1987/88 are Charterhouse Business Expansion Fund Management Limited, 7 Ludgate Broadway, London EC4A 3DU.

CHARTERHOUSE

A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP

To: FREEPOST Charterhouse BES 7 Ludgate Broadway, London EC4A 3DU. Please send me a copy of the Charterhouse BES Fund 1987/88 Memorandum and Application Form.

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Tel No. _____
THE CHARTERHOUSE BUSINESS EXPANSION FUND 1987/88

FAMILY MONEY / INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		
	27%	45%	50%	Investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Deposit A/c						
Barclays	3.00	2.26	1.84	1 min	7 day	01-626 1567
Lloyds	3.00	2.26	1.84	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	3.00	2.26	1.84	1 min	7 day	01-929 2777
Midland	3.00	2.26	1.84	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
National Girobank	3.00	2.26	1.84	1 min	7 day	01-800 6000
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	6.00	4.52	3.29	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	5.75	4.33	3.15	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	5.36	4.04	2.94	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	5.36	4.04	2.94	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	5.36	4.04	2.94	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000

BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary A/c ²	5.00	3.77	2.74	1 min	—	—
MONEY FUNDS						

MONEY FUNDS										
Aitken Hume Monthly Income	6.02	4.54	3.30	1,000 min	----	01-638 6070				
Allied Arab HICA	6.58	4.96	3.61	3,000 min	----	01-626 2048				
Bank of Scotland	6.09	4.59	3.34	2,500 min	----	01-628 8080				
Barclays High Rate Deposit	6.00	4.52	3.29	1,000 min	----	01-626 1567				
	6.25	4.71	3.42	10,000 min	----	01-628 1567				
Bridgman High Interest	6.19	4.59	3.38	1,000 min	----	01-588 2777				
Citibank Money Market Plus	6.00	4.52	3.29	2,500 min	----	01-581 1422				
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	5.65	4.11	5,000 min	----	01-236 8391				

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS		7.50 5.15 5.09			1,000 min		1 yr		0892 30488	
FPS (Management) Ltd	7.50	5.15	5.09	1,000 min	2 yrs				0892 30488	
FPS (Management) Ltd	7.50	5.15	5.09	1,000 min	3 yrs				0892 30488	
FPS (Management) Ltd	7.50	5.15	5.09	1,000 min	4 yrs				0892 30488	
Financial Assurance	7.75	6.00	5.50	2,000 min	5 yrs				01-367 6000	

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS		6.75 5.10 3.74			500 min		1 yr		01-407 2767	
Northampton	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	2 yrs				01-407 2767	
Kirkcaldy	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	3 yrs				01-407 2767	
Manchester	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	4 yrs				01-407 2767	
Swansea	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	5 yrs				01-407 2767	
Swansea	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	6 yrs				01-407 2767	
Northampton	6.75	5.10	3.74	500 min	7 yrs				01-407 2767	
Bristol	6.50	4.90	3.58	1,000 min	8 yrs				01-407 2767	
Bristol	6.50	4.90	3.58	1,000 min	9 yrs				01-407 2767	
Bristol	6.50	4.90	3.58	1,000 min	10 yrs				01-407 2767	

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS		8.40 8.40 8.40			7 day		0481 26741	
US Dollar	8.40	8.40	8.40	7 day			0481 26741	
Yen	2.95	2.95	2.95	7 day			0481 26741	
D Mark	2.76	2.76	2.76	7 day			0481 26741	
French Franc	7.00	7.00	7.00	7 day			0481 26741	
Swiss Franc	1.87	1.87	1.87	7 day			0481 26741	

Interest Taxable, paid gross. *Tax free. †Higher returns for larger balances. ‡Other banks may offer. §Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts. ¶Increased at end of year in line with rate of inflation. **Additional holdings up to £5,000 for investors in existing process of existing insured Certificates. ***Features for higher rate taxpayers may differ. ****Liquidity to variation. Research: Deborah Barn

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Apr '86 to Apr '87)	+4.2
Mortgage rate	11.25%
Bank base rate	9%
Bank prime overdraft rate*	12%-17% APR
Personal loan rate*	19.6% APR
Credit card rate*	23.8% APR
Hire purchase rate**	26% APR
Bank deposit account	3%
Building society ordinary account	5%
High-interest cheque account*	8.0%
Holiday exchange rates*	
Spanish peseta	202
French franc	9.70
Greek drachma	214
Italian lire	2100

* Typical rates	
** £1,000 over 12 months	
APR = annual percentage rate	
FUND OFFERS	
Fidelity	pages 29, 30, 32
Schroders Smaller Companies	page 30
Charterhouse	page 31
Murray Johnstone	page 31
Clydebank	page 31
Cherwell Medical	page 32
Save & Prosper Smaller Companies	page 32
GRE new range	page 33
Barrington	page 33
M & G	page 34

BASE LENDING RATES		9.50%	
ABN	9.50%		
Adam & Company	9.00%		
BCCI	9.00%		
Consolidated Credit	9.00%		
C-operative Bank	9.00%		
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%		
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%		
Lloyds Bank	9.00%		
Net Westminster	9.00%		
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%		
TSB	9.00%		
Citibank NA	9.00%		

THE POWER IS IN THE PARTNERSHIP

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Chng	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chng	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chng	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chng	Yld
ATENA LIFE INSURANCE															
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
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Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
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Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
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Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01	Atena Life	11.08	11.07	+0.01
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Edited by
Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

THIS WEEK

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Late settlers

With 10 days to go to the deadline for paying the second British Gas shares instalment, more than half the 3.1 million investors have still not paid. Late payers risk losing entitlement to shares, dividends and vouchers. Shareholders should send payment (45p a share) to the bank shown on the back of their payment notice. Anyone who has not received a notice should ring the British Gas Enquiry Line, 0272 294188, immediately.

Cards inquiry

The Monopolies Commission is investigating the supply of credit card services, such as Access and Barclaycard, to determine whether a possible monopoly operates against the public interest. The investigation will also cover institutions, such as building societies, which may decide to enter this market.

Aetna again

Aetna Unit Trusts Ltd has been relaunched. Investors are offered an insurance bond or unit trust portfolio through the Personal Investment Bond (minimum investment £1,000) and the Managed Investment Portfolio (minimum £2,500). Both offer a selection of five different approaches categorized by risk.

How parents find help

CONAL GREGORY examines the assisted places scheme as a means of helping with independent school fees

As school places are now being offered for the autumn term, an increasing number of parents are making plans for an independent education for their children. Since the assisted places scheme was established in 1981, those who cannot afford the full tuition fees are still able to obtain independent education for academically able youngsters who will benefit from this form of schooling.

The funding of assisted places has risen from just over £3 million in 1981-82 to more than £29.5 million in 1985-86, helping about 20,000 children. Fees for a day pupil in a junior school are now about £2,350 a year, and for boarding about £4,100. Day fees for a senior pupil are £2,900, while boarding costs £5,000. So financial help and early planning are essential.

The government scheme is open to boys and girls with the normal age of entry, generally 11 or 13 years. Some places are awarded for those going straight in at sixth-form level.

The previous type of school has no bearing on the funding, but pupils must have been resident in the UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands for the two years preceding January 1 of the year in which they take up their assisted place. There is exemption for those educated abroad on account of parents' work.

The Headmasters' Conference was initially sceptical of the scheme. Having seen it in practice, many, such as Bruce McGowan, head of Haberdashers' Aske's Boys', have called for it to be extended, for the limits on family income to be raised, and effectively the reliance of private schools on public funding to be increased.

Financial assistance with the fees is on a sliding scale linked to family income, and there may also be some help with uniform, travel and school meals.

The parental contribution will depend on the family's "relevant income", which is usually gross earnings from all sources plus the unearned

With 7 per cent of children now attending fee-paying schools, a growing number of insurance companies and brokers are entering the school fees planning market. AMANDA PARDOE reports

The idea behind a school fees plan is to invest enough money to meet, at least in part, estimated future fees. Some plans are funded from income and others from a single lump sum. So obviously, the sooner the plan starts, the better.

In return for an annual subscription of £10 (£12 for non-UK residents), ISIS, the Independent School Fees Information Service, provides individuals with details of schools and guidance on the ways of financing the fees.

ISIS has more than 27,000 members, mainly parents, and it provides information on 1,370 different schools which represent 80 per cent of the pupils in private education.

Its literature is being updated at the moment, and when it becomes available in July, members will have more detailed information on the schools than previously, such as the subjects offered, the local amenities and any particular facilities offered, such as a swimming pool or a theatre.

In respect of school fees planning, ISIS provides a list of specialists. This year it gives: Bain Clarkson Financial Services, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Fraser Marr, Hill Samuel Investment Services, Holmwoods, Invest For School Fees, Royal Life, Save & Prosper Group, School Fees Insurance Agency and Whitehead & Partners.

ISIS will suggest any of these to members who inquire but points out that not all the organizations listed provide a comprehensive range of plans. Most of them pay to advertise in ISIS literature.

ISIS is not responsible for making the selection. This is done by a committee made up of representatives who sponsor or ISIS, such as the Headmasters' Conference and the Girls' School Association.

The committee last met in April to reconsider which companies should be included in the list, as the previous list did not take into account changes in the school fees planning market. ISIS asked all businesses that wished to be considered to produce a report including details of their policies and staffing levels.

Previously there had been

income of the dependent children, less an allowance of £950 for every child other than the assisted place holder and for every other dependent relative of the parents.

The calculation ignores mobility allowance, child benefit, family income supplement, certain other social security benefits and the value of any student award of scholarship.

The figures are calculated on the tax year before the school year — that is, relevant income for the academic year 1987-88 will be based on income in the 1986-87 tax year — and parents must show documentary evidence, such as Form P60 or a Schedule D or E tax assessment.

Equal instalments are requested

For divorced or separated parents, the parental contribution is assessed according to the "relevant income" of each parent and related to the actual custody period. The calculation includes the income of the spouse of any parent who has remarried.

The level of assistance is reviewed every year, based on the fresh financial information of income given. Those parents who have a "relevant income" of £6,972 or below pay nothing towards the fees. An increasing share is borne above that, as the table illustrates.

The schools in the scheme

Relative income 1987-88 tax year (after allowances for dependants)	Parents' contribution in fee in 1987-88 school year	One assisted place holder	For each of two assisted place holders
£	£	£	£
7,000	15	12	
8,000	123	93	
9,000	273	204	
10,000	471	354	
11,000	681	510	
12,000	921	690	
13,000	1,181	870	
14,000	1,448	1,065	
15,000	1,779	1,285	
16,000	2,108	1,581	

The maximum "relevant income" at which pupils will be eligible for assistance will vary in relation to fees. In many schools the fee will not be as high as the fee in this table and pupils at this level of income will not be eligible for assistance.

A lesson in fees



Schooldays can be great, but early planning is advised

little change from year to year — 1987 is different. There are three newcomers on the list: Fraser Marr, Invest For School Fees and Whitehead & Partners. All three have been set up by ex-employees of C. Howard & Partners.

Invest For School Fees has now been running for four years, and this week an 80 per cent shareholding in it was bought by Willis Faber, one of the world's largest insurance and reinsurance brokers.

The other two newcomers were both formed during 1987. Apart from the employees who left Howard to form these new businesses, the chairman, Gilbert McNeil-Moss, and the company secretary resigned last year.

As a result of this exodus, none of the sales team now at Howard has been there longer than 18 months. In view of this, ISIS considers the firm no longer has sufficient experience of school fees planning, and therefore removed it from its list at the beginning of May.

Apart from Howard, ISIS has also taken Allied Dunbar off the list, because "there was some disquiet about the selling methods used", says Claire Austin, of ISIS.

Both must now remove the ISIS logo from their literature. Not surprisingly, neither is very happy with the decision.

Sue Douthwaite, Allied Dunbar's School fees consultant, says the company intends to clear up the matter and hopes to be reinstated before long. "There is no way that we can let this slide," she said. "We are looking into it and want to sort out the problem."

Similarly, Howard is intending to continue discussing the issue with ISIS.

Miss Austin says the decision is certainly not irreversible, and that when the committee is satisfied that there is no longer any need to

have reservations, it will be prepared to reconsider the applications.

The committee is scheduled to meet again in the autumn, and although it is possible that applications will be reconsidered then, Miss Austin thinks it is more likely to be included in the agenda of the meeting tabled for spring 1988. She also believes the committee will review the list annually from now on.

ISIS is not alone in providing information on schools. Earlier this month Canada Life launched a new database service covering most private schools in the UK. The service is offered free of charge and forms part of the company's Financial Planning for Children Service. This covers not only school fee planning and university funding, but also house purchase savings for the first-time buyer, covenants and trusts, wedding day funding, inheritance tax, pension health insurance and straightforward life assurance.

Obviously, Canada Life hopes individuals who express an interest in the schools database will also take out one of its school fees plans. There is, however, no obligation to do so.

Further details are available from Canada Life, Canada Life House, High Street, Porters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 5BA (0707 51122).

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INDEPENDENT OFFERS ITS OWN REWARDS

The facts that may confuse the investor

INSURANCE

The Financial Services Act is intended to provide increased protection for investors. One way of achieving this is to make available a greater amount of information so that investors can make their choices on a better informed basis.

It all sounds very sensible, but Britain's insurance companies are convinced that the present disclosure proposals are so wide-ranging that they will end up choking people with information that will only confuse them.

The proposals have been published by LAUTRO — the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation. It is one of the five nascent self-regulating organizations whose aim is to be granted recognition by the legally designated chief regulator, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

Radical revision of rules demanded

To obtain recognition LAUTRO has to satisfy the SIB that it has a comprehensive set of tough rules to enable it to police its own part of the financial services arena.

This week the Association of British Insurers, the trade association for the UK's major insurance companies, called for a fundamental revision of LAUTRO's rules to provide policyholders with detailed information about policy benefits. "The proliferation of information involved will not be in the best interests of the consumer," says the association.

Some people might think that kind of statement smacks of the insurance companies pretending to look after the consumer but in reality keeping vital information from him. But that is not how the insurance companies themselves see it.

The association argues that the spirit of the Financial Services Act is to provide the consumer with the sort of information he can readily assimilate in order to help him to make a decision on his savings and investments. It says that what LAUTRO is proposing goes way beyond this point and poses a serious risk of confusing investors and increasing costs, which the consumer will eventually have to pay.

In particular, the associ-

ation asserts that costly and unnecessary duplication of work will be involved in supplying detailed information to potential policyholders of surrender values and projected benefits at both the point of sale and cooling-off stages. "It is not clear what this duplication of information would achieve," says the association.

It says it has no serious quarrel in principle with the idea of a cooling-off notice, which will give people the opportunity to back out of a life assurance, personal pension or unit trust contract within 14 days of signing on the dotted line. Indeed, a more restricted form of cooling-off has been operated by the life companies for several years. The association's concern is whether it is right to inundate people with repetitive facts and figures that will only confuse them.

It is not only the association that is pressing for a simplification of the information to be provided to consumers.

The Linked Life Assurance Group, whose members include companies such as Albany, Cornhill and Provincial, is particularly unhappy about LAUTRO's plan to require insurance companies to give information to potential clients about the impact of inflation on their policy benefits.

LAUTRO wants insurers to send out a notice to policyholders before they take out a contract reminding them that the purchasing power of the policy benefits and the real

Figures to scare off policyholders

cost of the premiums to be paid will depend on the rate of inflation over the period of the contract.

The savage effects of inflation can be judged quite clearly from the fact that a 9 per cent inflation rate would turn £1,000 of today's money into just £422 after 10 years. Over 20 years, 9 per cent inflation would reduce the same £1,000 to £178. And it is not just the higher levels of inflation that take their toll. Even at 3 per cent inflation, £1,000 over 20 years would be reduced to a value of £554.

These figures are enough to scare off any would-be policyholder and that is just what the Linked Life Assurance Group is worried about. Its chairman Don Shore is opposed to the



Don Shore: opposed



Malcolm Reid: playing down

LAUTRO inflation rule for a number of reasons.

First, he says, it prevents the client from judging the value of the policy benefit against his own view of future inflation. Mr Shore says it will also not be understood by a large number of clients and it is not even-handed between benefits and contributions.

Overall, his group believes the proposed inflation warning places too great an emphasis on the impact of inflation on benefits and too little on premiums paid. Its solution is that monetary values should be used to illustrate benefits coupled with warnings about the impact of inflation.

Meanwhile LAUTRO's chief executive Malcolm Reid is playing down criticism of his organization's draft rules and denies that he is at loggerheads with the insurance companies.

Nevertheless, time is not on his side. He is hoping LAUTRO will be ready to apply to the SIB for recognition by the end of June, which leaves just one month to reconcile some fundamentally opposing opinions.

The chances are that LAUTRO will have to water down its proposals — otherwise it risks floundering tactics by the insurance companies. It may have erred slightly too much on the side of generosity of detailed information, but for the benefit of consumers it must not sacrifice its basic intentions. If it does, the SIB will be right to send it back to the drawing board.

Peter Gartland

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RATES VARIABLE

ASSETS OVER £200 MILLION

MEMBER OF B.S.A.

RATES VARIABLE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read Press comment on my recent advertisement in Private Eye, "Easy money from mail order", to which you replied, and I now realize that jokes of this sort in the Small Ads columns are "not on". I have apologised to Private Eye for its insertion, and am returning all funds and postage to the small number of respondents.

Please accept my sincere apologies for any trouble caused.

So sorry: the trickster's letter that accompanied the refund

Mr Easy Money pays it all back

The £1 trickster exposed in last week's Family Money has been shamed into making amends.

He had advertised under a box number in the classified section of the satirical magazine Private Eye, offering to tell people on payment of £1 how to make easy money.

His money-making suggestion for those who sent £1 was that they should place a similar advertisement and watch the coins roll in.

This week, promptly after the Family Money article had appeared, he sent £1.20 to his victims with the following note:

"I have read press comment on my recent advertisement in Private Eye, 'Easy money from mail order', to which you replied, and I now realize that jokes of this sort in the small ads columns are 'not on'. I have apologised to Private Eye for its insertion, and am returning all funds and postage to the small number of respondents."

"Please accept my sincere apologies for any trouble caused."

That was not all. Cecilia Boggis in the Private Eye classified department, alerted by The Times, had told him that his brand of trickery was unacceptable.

"Then," she said, "he sent me a sweet letter, with a £10 donation to charity!"

The penitent con man, still protected by his advertisement box number from being unmasked, is at Cambridge University, and seems to be an undergraduate. In his letter to Miss Boggis he said he appreciated his advertisement was "a mistake".

The idea came about after a student rag and "what seemed harmless fun then now seems very different".

The unlikely combination of The Times and Private Eye resulted in the sort of justice that delighted Diana Bird at the Advertising Standards Authority.

"The system has worked," she said. "It is the answer to that certain number of people — the Labour Party in particular — who say a statutory system should replace the self-regulatory one."

"It is good to see the media being responsible."

True, self-regulation really does work — but only if those involved use the machinery available and take responsible action.

On this occasion a reasonable complaint was made to Private Eye immediately the confidence trick was discovered.

Essential to follow the procedure

ered. The magazine acted quickly to take the offender to task. And Family Money told the story and warned consumers to beware of such dubious advertisements.

It is worth repeating the advice of last week's Family Money article that a victim should always complain either to the publication or to the Advertising Standards Authority, whose job it is to take up complaints on behalf of consumers.

This procedure is essential if unsavoury opportunists are to be curbed.

The Cambridge con man in this case has said he is sorry and has put matters right, at some financial cost to himself. But one must seriously wonder whether his conscience would have been sensitive enough to move him if pressure had not been exerted.

Brian Collett

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ANYONE who keeps an eye on the unit trust market will know that Legal & General's Unit Trusts have recently achieved some pretty outstanding performances. Legal & General's Portfolio includes details of our twelve different Unit Trusts, so whether you are looking for income or capital growth, whether you wish to invest in UK stocks or venture overseas, there's a Trust that's just right for you. And all the information you need is right here in this new edition of our Unit Trust Portfolio. To receive your own free copy of the Portfolio, just pick up the phone or send off the coupon.

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Ask for Department J181. Lines are open 24 hours a day — 7 days a week.

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You should find out more about this outstandingly successful fund.

An investment now could put the prospects for your portfolio a sizeable step ahead of the average.

*Source: Planned Savings to 15.07. Performance Offer to Bid net income reinvested.

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1 year

76%
3 years

292%
5 years

608%
7 years



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TT 30/5

Legal & General Unit Trust Managers

FAMILY MONEY/3

■ "There's a sucker born every minute" is the quotation used by Rowan Bosworth-Davies as a lead-in for his new book *Too Good to be True*. The theme of the book is fraud.

Now, more people than ever have money to invest, as a result of commuted pensions, redundancy payments and inheritance. Mr Bosworth-Davies looks at the ways in which the growing number of first time investors can be conned by fraudsters.

During his years as a detective in the Metropolitan Police company fraud department, Mr Bosworth-Davies learnt of many of the tricks used from an informant who had himself been a successful fraudster and whose philosophy was:

"People who have money to invest are all looking for the greatest return for the minimum outlay," Mr Bosworth-Davies says.

"Essentially, he believed, this was equivalent to greed and as far as he was concerned, greedy people were legitimate targets. He would offer them an investment in a scheme which offered fantastic returns and he would then proceed to steal their money."

He also examines the methods adopted by the police, government departments and the Director of Public Prosecutions in investigating and prosecuting con men.

Mr Bosworth-Davies is now the investigations manager for FIMBRA, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. *Too Good to be True* is published by Bodley Head at £12.95.

■ Financial advisers attending a major trade show in Brighton next week will hear plans for a

Container inquiry goes on

The affairs of Containerworld Services, the container leasing company that went into voluntary liquidation last month, are still being scrutinized by liquidators and the Fraud Squad, writes Amanda Pardoe.

The liquidators, Laurence Gerrard & Co, have experienced some difficulties in obtaining information from SIS (UK) Ltd, the company employed last October by Containerworld Services to collect its debts and negotiate settlements with its creditors. They therefore instructed solicitors to obtain from SIS a full account of its dealings with the assets and affairs of the Containerworld Companies.

Although SIS delivered various documents to the solicitors on Thursday, a court hearing took place yesterday requesting further information from SIS. Laurence Gerrard & Co is keen to ensure that it has all facts relating to Containerworld.

This week, the liquidators wrote to all container owners bringing

them up to date with events and listing the companies that have expressed an interest in taking over the management of the Containerworld fleet. These include Acgreen Container Leasing Ltd, which has been managing the Containerworld fleet since March 1, William Hamilton, who is co-ordinator of the Containerworld Action and Rescue Group, Shirlstar Container Transport Ltd and SIS (UK) Ltd.

The joint liquidators, Laurence Gerrard and Richard Hyams, are making no recommendations, but advise investors to make their own inquiries to assess the suitability of the companies listed. They also stress the need for a decision to be made as soon as possible. A simple questionnaire is attached to the letter for investors to indicate their preference.

Already, about 150 replies have been received, and around 80 per cent of them favour leaving the management of the fleet in the hands of Acgreen.

money and so reduce the cost of their authorization under the Financial Services Act. Mr Fenwick says the implications for investor protection are considerable.

British Telecom Insurance Services has been involved in developing the prototype of the exchange and Mr Fenwick hopes a pilot version will be in operation by the end of June.

■ Lloyds Bank is making a number of improvements to its High Interest Cheque Account. From June 10 there will be no minimum entry requirement, the limit on daily cash point withdrawals will be increased from £500 to £500, and both a secured and unsecured overdraft facility will be available.

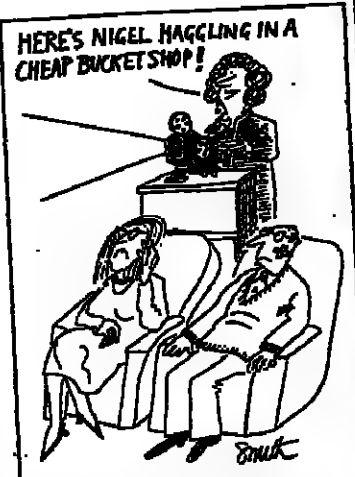
The interest earned on credit balances will be paid monthly in future as opposed to quarterly. The current net rates are 2.7 per cent on sums up to £1,000, rising to 6.5 per cent on balances of £50,000 and over.

Although a full current account service is offered, the High Interest Cheque Account is not an attractive alternative for the average customer. The interest paid has to be weighed against the charges - only one free debit a month is permitted. Thereafter debits cost 50p each.

Lloyds has also reviewed the charges on its ordinary current account. From June 5 customers who overdraw will be charged 25p per transaction, as opposed to 20p. This figure is lower than the debit charges of Barclays, but Lloyds, it must be remembered, also charges for credits.

■ Several personal finance books have been published during the past week. David Lewis's *The Savers' and Investors' Guide 1987-88*, is aimed at both the novice and the experienced investor. It is published in paperback by Wisebuy, and costs £2.95.

Pensions: Agenda for Change. Planning and Implementing Pension



HERE'S NIGEL HAGGLING IN A CHEAP BUCKET SHOP!

Choices after 1988, written by Martin Paterson, looks in detail at the recent changes in the law relating to pensions and how to deal with them. It is published in hardback by Woodhead-Faulkner (Publishers Ltd) at £32.50.

The second edition of the *Allied Dunbar Retirement Planning Guide* is now available. The book is written by Barry Bean, Tony Foreman and Dr Barrie Wright, and covers health and finance in retirement. It is published in hardback by Longman at £13.50.

On the retirement front, The Stock Exchange Press has launched a new personal finance magazine, *Retirement Investor*. It is written by Valentine Low and is available from high street newsagents at £1.25.

Free with the first issue is the second edition of the Stock Exchange Press guide to personal equity plans, *PEP Investor*.

Six new funds with the power to perform

A powerful team of managers

The only difference between one unit trust management company and another is the quality and professionalism of the team of people that manages the funds.

As part of Charterhouse Investment Management Limited, which has over £2,000,000,000 funds already under management and is a member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Capital House is no newcomer to investment management, but has a long and proven performance record together with one of the most experienced teams of fund managers ever assembled.

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This is your first opportunity to take advantage of this powerful team's management skills, and to maximise the potential value of your investments.

A powerful portfolio of unit trusts

Capital House announces the launch of six new unit trusts, giving you a choice, or combination, of investment objectives.

Do you want to maximise your capital growth, or are you seeking a growing income? Do you want a share in some of the UK's newest public companies such as British Gas or TSB?

What about the benefits of a stake in some of the most successful Japanese corporations, or French or American companies? How can you take advantage of the many opportunities offered by stock markets around the world?

The answer is to invest in one or more of the Capital House Unit Trusts, and to allow our international team of managers to use their expertise and specialised knowledge to react quickly to changes in the marketplace and thus maximise the objectives of each of the funds. But remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

An initial offer price of 25p per unit

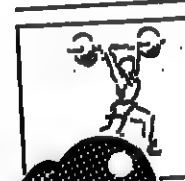
It is often best to invest at the launch of a fund, as the opportunities offered are new, the strategy fresh, and you start at the "ground level".

By offering you six unit trusts simultaneously, you have the choice of one preferred trust, or of spreading your risk and reward across a variety of markets through investment in a selection of trusts.

Units are only available at the special fixed offer price of 25p per unit until close of business on Thursday 4th June 1987.



European Growth
The investment objective is to achieve long-term capital growth from a carefully selected portfolio of Continental European securities.
Estimated initial gross yield: 1%



Income and Growth
The investment objective is to achieve a balance between capital growth and growing income by investing in stocks and shares of UK companies with growth prospects and above average yields.
Estimated initial gross yield: 4.8%



International Growth
The investment objective is to achieve long-term capital growth from a carefully selected portfolio of stocks and shares quoted on the major stock markets of the world.
Estimated initial gross yield: 1%



Japan Growth
The investment objective is to achieve long-term capital growth from a broad portfolio of Japanese securities.
Estimated initial gross yield: 0.5%



North American Growth
The investment objective is to achieve capital growth through investment in leading US and Canadian companies.
Estimated initial gross yield: 1%



UK Growth
The investment objective is to achieve capital growth by investing in a carefully selected portfolio of UK stocks and shares.
Estimated initial gross yield: 2.25%

Up to 2% bonus offer

As a special introduction, there is a bonus offer of up to 2% discount on the offer price of 25 pence per unit for those investors whose application is received by close of business on 4th June.

Up to £10,000 — 1% bonus offer
£10,001 or more — 2% bonus offer
The minimum investment in each Capital House Unit Trust is £1,000. However, you may choose to invest more than this in one trust, or invest at least this amount in any number of trusts.

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Telephone 0800 833561

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(minimum £1,000 per trust)

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I am/We are over 18 years of age.

Please tick box if reinvestment of income is required

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North American Growth Trust ☐

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ADDRESS

POST CODE

SIGNATURE(S)

(In case of joint holders, all must sign)

DATE

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A contract note providing details of the price and number of units purchased will be sent within two working days of receipt of your application and cheque. Unit certificates will follow normally within the next 28 days. Unit prices and yields are published daily in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph and other national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the management company at the bid price ruling on receipt of your instructions by the Managers, either by post or by telephone. A cheque will be sent to you, normally within 7 days of receipt of your renounced unit certificate. Distributions will commence in 1988.

Details of accounting and distribution dates are available from the managers. An initial charge of 5.25% is included in the offer price of units, and a service charge of 1% per annum plus VAT.

is levied monthly. Under the terms of the Trust Deed the maximum permitted charge is 2% per annum plus VAT. Any increase up to the permitted maximum will be subject to three months written notice to the unit holders. The Trust Deeds permit (where consistent with investment objectives) the purchase and sale of currencies at forward rates of exchange, investment in traded options and in certain secondary markets within guidelines laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Unit Trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and are regulated by an approved Trust Deed, full details of which are available from the Managers on request. Commissioners will be paid by the Managers to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request.

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MANAGERS: Capital House Unit Trust Managers Limited
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For further information on the Fidelity Portfolio Management Service, you can call our investment advisers today, free of charge. We're open today and every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week, so you can call us when it suits you. Alternatively, contact your professional adviser or return the coupon below.

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*Offer to bid net of all charges and fees to 30th April 1987.

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Cash the taxman cannot touch

The final part of your tax return deals with claiming allowances, which make sure that at least part of your income is free of income tax.

Virtually everyone qualifies for the single person's allowance, but marriage brings the possibility of an extra amount of tax relief in the form of the married allowance.

For the tax year 1986-87, this boosted the single person's allowance of £2,335 by £1,320 to £3,655. You can claim this if you are a married couple living together or if the husband is wholly maintaining the wife with voluntary payments not set up under a court order or legally binding settlement.

If you each earned enough last year, it may be worth sacrificing the married person's allowance so that the wife's earnings can be taxed separately. There is no short cut to making a final decision but, in approximate terms, the wife's earnings election would not be useful for 1986-87 unless the minimum joint income is at least £26,520 and the wife's income is at least £6,986.

Although it is called the married man's allowance it may not always go to the man. For example, if only the wife is working, she can claim the

wife's earned income allowance of £2,335, and the married man's allowance can be transferred to her. So, if just the husband goes to work, the total personal tax allowance will amount to £3,655 for 1986-87, whereas if the husband stays at home and the wife is the earner, the total personal tax allowance would be £3,990 last year and £6,220 this year.

You can start claiming the married allowance during the year of marriage. How much will depend on the dates. If you were married on April 6,

Extra boost for the over-80s

you can claim full entitlement: if you were married on October 6, you can claim half of it.

Few allowances cause more questions than the age allowance. If either a husband or a wife was born before April 6, 1923, it may be possible to claim it. This allowance in 1986-87 increases the married allowance by £850 to £4,505. In the current year, the allowances have been increased with an extra boost for people of 80 and over.

The additional personal allowance is worth £1,320 in

1986-87 and is basically intended to replace the married allowance for people who do not have a husband or wife to help them bring up children. It is provided for people who have a child living with them and either are unable to claim the married allowance, for example, because they are single parents, or because the wife is incapacitated.

The child must be your own or at least maintained by you. Children who are 16 or more during the tax year do not qualify unless they are in full-time education or on a two-year training course. If you are divorced and you share the maintenance of a child you can share the allowance between you.

The dependent relative allowance of £75 a year is one of those minor allowances, along with the housekeeper allowance and the son's or daughter's services allowance, that successive Chancellors seem incapable of abolishing outright but which depreciate in value through inflation.

However, the blind person's allowance, £360 last year, has been increased a little from time to time. Blindness for these purposes does not necessarily mean absolute loss of sight. Rather, it means the impossibility of performing

any work for which eyesight is essential. If both husband and wife are blind, they can each claim this allowance.

It is largely beyond your control whether you qualify for most of the available allowances. In the case of retirement annuity payments, the availability of the relief would depend on whether you have paid premiums into a personal pension plan. You can pay premiums into one of these types of plan - variously called personal pension plans, retirement annuities, self-employed pension plans, per

The maximum depends on age

sonal retirement plans, and so on.

If you have "net relevant earnings", it means you are self-employed or are an employee but not a member of your employer's pension scheme.

Your net relevant earnings are your taxable profits from being self-employed or your non-pensionable earnings from a job.

The maximum you can invest in respect of every year's earnings would depend on your age. During 1986-87,

people born in 1934 or later could invest up to 17.5 per cent of their net relevant earnings for that tax year. Older people could invest more. You can also catch up this limit if you have not paid the maximum premiums you could have made during the previous six tax years, going back to 1980-81.

In fact, you can still pay a premium and have it treated as if you had paid it last year. This could be worth doing. Not only will you get the tax relief sooner, but you may actually save more tax because the basic tax rate last year was 29 per cent, whereas it is now 27 per cent. If you want to relate back a premium to 1986-87 and you paid it after April 5, you will need Form 43. The Inland Revenue can provide this.

It only remains to sign the declaration at the bottom, and you can relax for another year. It will then just be a question of checking the assessment and/or the notice of coding, bearing in mind that roughly a quarter of them may be wrong for one reason or another.

Danby Bloch and
Raymond Godfrey

Brisk business with a piece of plastic

Cashless shopping is on its way. This week Barclays reached agreement with the big retailers over introducing the new Connect debit card.

The card, being launched on Wednesday, enables shoppers to pay by plastic at shop counters, with immediate debit to their bank current account - unlike a credit card where a separate account is debited. It is intended to replace cheques as an easier and swifter method of payment, cutting shop queues and reducing fraud.

While the other banks are experimenting with similar cards, Barclays is going ahead with the first nation-wide system. You have to be a Barclays customer to get a card, because Connect is directly linked to Barclays accounts only. Barclays customers are already getting mail shots, and brochures are inviting them to apply. The bank is also plan-

ning press and television advertising and prominently displayed posters. Barclays expects to have issued about a million cards before the year end.

The card is easier and quicker than cheques and cheque cards. It doubles, like a Barclaycard, as a cash card and cheque guarantee card. And it costs nothing to get one. The card will also be usable in shops abroad, as well as in Britain, provided they are part of the Visa card system. That should be a lot easier, and probably cheaper, than using travellers' cheques or Eurocheques.

After that, the benefits are not so obvious. Your account is debited instantly, without the delay of two or three days you get with a cheque. You do not get instant credit unless you have arranged for an overdraft with your bank manager.

However, if you have arranged one, the overdraft cost is likely to be slightly less than the cost of running up the debt on a credit card.

The real benefit is to the bank and the retailers, which means they have strong reasons for persuading the public to use debit cards. Cheques are costly and cumbersome to process. Once the system becomes fully automated it will be very fast and cheap to run.

Initially, Connect cards will be processed just like Barclaycards. As the system is improved you will simply "wipe" the debit card through a machine, key in a personal identification number, and the whole transaction will be processed within seconds.

So far eight big retailers have agreed to accept the card - Boots, Burton's, C & J Clark, Sainsbury, Tesco, Dixons, W.H. Smith and Woolworth.

Barclays is negotiating with others and aims to have Connect accepted in all 260,000 British retail outlets belonging to the Visa system.

The agreement with retailers has not been easily reached, however. Barclays tried to impose a processing charge equivalent to the amount it charges for credit cards. The retailers said this was far more than they already paid for processing cheques, which Connect is supposed to replace.

They refused to accept the card until Barclays agreed to charge the same as for cheques. There is now an uneasy peace, but enough to allow the start of one of the biggest innovations in payment systems for years.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent



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The powerhouse economies of Asia and the Far East are booming as never before. The average unit trust in this sector is up 44.9% over 12 months. Clerical Medical's new Dragon Growth Trust offers you all this eastern promise plus a sound western pedigree. Find out more now.

Source: MacKay to 11.5.87. Performance based on offer to bid net of all charges and fees to 30th April 1987.

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Mon - Fri 8.30am-5.30pm or write to:
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Name: _____
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7.75%[†] = 10.62%[‡] Balance £10,000 and over
7.25%[†] = 9.93%[‡] £1,000-£9,999
7.00%[†] = 9.59%[‡] £250-£999
3.75%[†] = 5.14%[‡] £250

Immediate withdrawal with your own cheque book. Minimum investment £250.

I request overdraft or overdraft facility on 30th June.
*Gross equivalent rate to income tax covers at 27%. All rates quoted are variable.
†Gross equivalent rate to income tax covers at 27%. All rates quoted are variable.
‡Gross equivalent rate to income tax covers at 27%. All rates quoted are variable.
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Smaller companies frequently offer significantly better investment prospects than their larger counterparts. And now here more so right now, in our opinion, than in the USA.

Because, although smaller companies' shares have outperformed larger company stocks - by 30% over the last 15 years - they have been neglected in recent years. And despite growth rates often 2½ times greater, they are trading at similar levels to larger companies.

But commentators increasingly believe that a resurgence is long overdue and is just beginning - therefore we feel the time to invest is now. So we're offering you the chance to do just that - with the new Save & Prosper American Smaller Companies Fund.

Smaller companies are often more innovative and can react more quickly to new market opportunities. It is likely that real interest rates will continue to fall - and so we expect more money to be attracted back to the US stock market.

Smaller companies, because they tend to serve domestic demand, are less likely to suffer from the adverse effects of increasing trade friction between America and her trading partners.

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Save & Prosper's US affiliate company in New York will provide on-the-spot investment advice and expertise. We already manage over \$300 million of investors' funds in the US and were leading innovators in setting up our successful American Income & Growth and US Growth Funds.

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To invest or to find out more, complete and return the coupon or call us on our free Moneyline 0800 282 101 (we're open 9.30 am to 5.30 pm this weekend).

DETAILS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OBJECTIVE: To provide long-term capital growth through investment in American smaller companies. PHICES AND YIELD: The offer price of units is 16th May 1987 was 50p per unit and the estimated gross starting yield was nil. DEALING IN UNITS: Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving remittance certificates. Current prices and yield are quoted daily in the Financial Times and on Prestel 461288. NET INCOME DIS-

TRIBUTIONS (NAV) 21st March each year. CHARGES: Initial charge 5% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Redemption (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge 1% of the value of the Fund plus VAT (with a generous discount of 2% plus VAT - subject to 3 months' notice). This is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses including Trustees' fees. INVESTMENT POWERS: Under the Trust Deed the Managers may purchase and write

traded options, and invest in secondary markets subject to the provisions laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State by the Financial Services Act 1986. Trustees: Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, London, Glasgow, and the City of London. Unit Trust Association.

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I understand that the value of my investment may go up or down and that I may not get back the full amount I invested.

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FAMILY MONEY/5

The umbrella that covers your outlay

INVESTMENT

It is now three years since Gartmore Fund Managers launched the first umbrella fund — the Capital Strategy Fund Ltd.

The mechanics of the umbrella fund are quite straightforward. The Capital Strategy Fund Ltd, which is an open-ended offshore investment company, comprises a range of different share classes, or sub-funds as they are often described. Some share classes are invested in equities from different world markets, some are made up of fixed interest securities, and others are held in currency deposits.

The investor can buy shares in any or all of these share classes, which means that a broadly based portfolio is easy to construct. However, it is up to the individual to decide which shares to buy and when to switch or sell them. Telephone dealing can be done on any working day in Jersey, and written confirmation is not required.

The wide investment choice offered by this umbrella fund is not the only attraction. Every sub-fund is quoted at a single price, which means there is no "spread" when investors convert their holding from one class of shares to another.

What is more, in common with other offshore umbrella funds, switches between share classes do not incur either liability to UK capital gains tax or UK stamp duty.

The Inland Revenue has confirmed that this favourable CGT treatment is allowed under current legislation in accordance with the Capital Gains Tax Act.

Gartmore's Capital Strategy Fund has grown considerably since its launch, and assets under management have now reached US\$500 million, 40 per cent of which is from UK investors. Mark Doman, the product manager, believes the size of Capital Strategy "reflects the confidence of investors attracted by the low cost and flexibility" of the fund.

This week Gartmore announced a number of changes

'The spicier growth fund'

and introduced six new sub-funds, bringing the total to 21. There are four new equity funds — an Australasian Fund, investing in both the Australian and New Zealand equity markets, a Canadian Fund investing in Canadian equities and convertible bonds, a Global Resources Fund, investing in commodity-oriented emerging companies and an Emerging Markets Fund.

This last, which will closely resemble Gartmore's Frontier Markets unit trust, which was launched earlier this year, is clearly the most speculative fund in the range. Paul Myners, chairman of Capital Strategy, says: "I see it as the spicier international growth fund."

In addition to the equity

funds, two more deposit funds have been introduced — the French Franc Deposit Fund and the Australian Dollar Deposit Fund. One existing fund has also been restructured — the International High Income Fund now becomes the International Bond Fund.

The other changes announced relate to the charges. Previously, investors have been entitled to four free switches a year. This has now been increased to 12. Mr Doman says there is relatively little switching activity, with few investors making more than eight in a year.

Gartmore also proposes to change the annual management fee. At present 0.75 per cent is charged on all funds. Gartmore intends that it should be retained at this level for the deposit funds, but increased to 1 per cent for the equity, fixed interest and specialist funds. This is expected to come into effect by the end of the year.

Capital Strategy is not aimed at the small investor. The minimum investment is US\$25,000 or the sterling equivalent, which can be freely split among any number of sub-funds.

To date Capital Strategy has appealed primarily to institutions and professional intermediaries, who together account for 80 per cent of the assets under management — the current number of private client investors is in the region of 6,500.

Amanda Pardoe



Mark Doman: "confidence"

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Take technology shares for example. Here is a selection of recent winners from this exciting area of the stockmarket.

Stock	Low	High	Gain
Amstrad	12.5	205	1533
Parade	15	293	1927
Capel	24	85	840
Peak Holdings	12	124	832
Consolidated (27)	42	382	836
Sainsbury	5	48	820
Quint	22	189	759
Clear	6	514	647
Zygal	15	112	567
Martinet	28	195	595
Kode Int	65	442	580
Miles 33	105	843	512

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PS: Average peak gain of 1987 Naps is already over 75%



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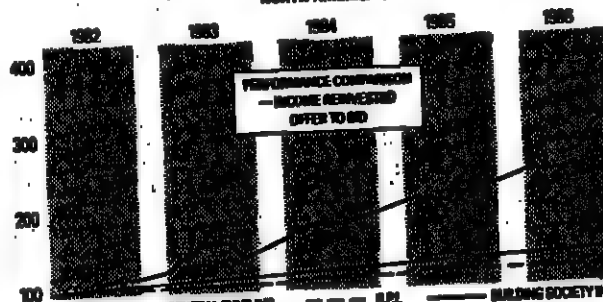
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Housewives in the dark

PENSIONS

More than one in five housewives does not know whether her husband is in a pension scheme, says a new survey.

The survey, commissioned by the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents 1,300 of Britain's major occupational funds, also shows that nearly half the wives who do know their husbands are in a scheme have never talked to them about it.

The association's director general, Michael Elton, says he is particularly concerned about the lack of understanding among housewives, whom he describes as "an especially vulnerable group", at a time when people will start to make decisions about opting out of their scheme to take out a personal pension.

Mr Elton says that because housewives are not working, they have to rely on their husbands to make pension arrangements on their behalf. He is worried that many husbands will opt for a personal pension that will not automatically carry a widow's benefit if they die while still working. So they will have to make special provision at extra cost.

"If they don't talk to their

wives about these pension provisions, there is a danger that many will forget to do so," he says.

The association, determined to combat public ignorance and apathy, has just launched an information campaign with the theme, "Can you really beat a pension that comes with your job?" The centrepiece of it is a 12-minute video starring the comedian Lesley Henry as an occupational scheme member faced with choosing between his employer's scheme and a personal pension plan.

Mr Elton says it would be appalling if millions were persuaded to risk their financial security in retirement without understanding that that was precisely what they could be doing by leaving a good occupational scheme in favour of a personal pension.

The insurance companies and other providers of personal pensions, such as banks, building societies and unit trust groups, will put forward the argument that a personal pension can be right for some people. Legal & General says people under 35 who stay for less than five years before changing jobs would be better off with a personal pension.

This week Royal Life launched a new range of



Michael Elton: concerned

pension products together with a free booklet* explaining current and future pension options.

Royal points out that, assuming the Tories are re-elected, pension changes due to come into force in the next 12 months will have a dramatic effect on the way more than 20 million working people will pay for the pensions they will start to collect in the 21st century. As with all revolutions there will be winners and losers, says Royal.

Peter Gartland

* Copies of the booklet Pensions - The Future are available free from Royal Life Individual Pensions Department, PO Box 30, Newhall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS

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GRE unit trust performance over the 3 years to 4th May 1987.

Property Share	+ 198.6%	1st out of 13
European	+ 180.8%	3rd out of 16
Pacific	+ 127.1%	2nd out of 31
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Gilt & Fixed Interest	+ 34.8%	9th out of 37

Source: MiroOpal/Money Marketing. Offer to bid with income reinvested.

Before you invest in a unit trust, fill in the coupon and see just how good ours look.

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UNIT TRUSTS

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Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme of up to 15,000,000 Ordinary shares of 10p each at 15p

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It has:

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Steadily rising fuel prices now make the company confident that this important new market will open up strongly in 1987.

In addition, a brand new 42 ft cruising wingsail bismar, Pioneer 1280 will be launched later this year. Offering high performance, single person fingertip control, and computer protection against both wind and wave capsize, she is already under construction at the company's Humber plant.

For the latest WWS newsletter and a copy of the prospectus, please fill in and return the coupon. No intermediaries should apply, since it is intended that the Offer will be made available only to individual investors, and no commissions will be paid.

The minimum subscription will be £105, although the minimum total investment in the company in any given tax year to qualify for tax relief, is £500.

Over 1.5m has been raised to date under this prospectus.

Extract from Report by Captain R S Francis, Master of "Ashington"

Dated - 18th November 1986

"The results for this run up the River Scheldt were quite astonishing. With windspeeds approaching strong to gale force it was clear that the wingsail was performing to its maximum. Spot checks of the recording equipment showed that, with the pitch set at 85% the fuel flow meter was reading around 38 litres per mile and the speed at just over 12kts. With the wingsail on head, the fuel flow was reducing to around 30-32 litres per mile and the speed climbing to around 14 knots."

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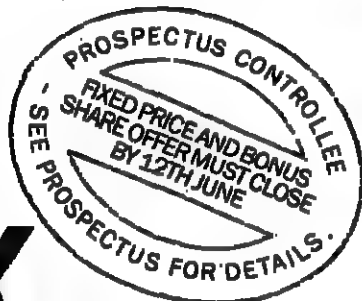
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You're free to choose from three classes of shares in the Company corresponding to three simple risk - graded portfolios, each with a clearly defined investment aim. The new Safeguard, Growth and Enterprise Portfolios will enable you to construct an offshore portfolio that conforms with your own investment philosophy of risk and reward.

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The Company is based in Luxembourg and aims to offer investors an excellent opportunity for capital growth by investing in stocks and shares selected from the world's stock markets.

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There is also a significant Capital Gains Tax advantage - shareholdings can be converted between portfolios free of UK Capital Gains Tax.

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The Portfolios will be managed by a member of the Clerical Medical Investment Group, one of the UK's major insurance and investment management groups, with over £3 billion of assets under management.

THE PROSPECTUS

The CMI Managed Portfolio Company has made application for its shares to be listed on both the Luxembourg and London Stock Exchanges.

Shares will be denominated in Sterling. The prospectus is available now. Order your copy by sending off the coupon, or phoning Linkline

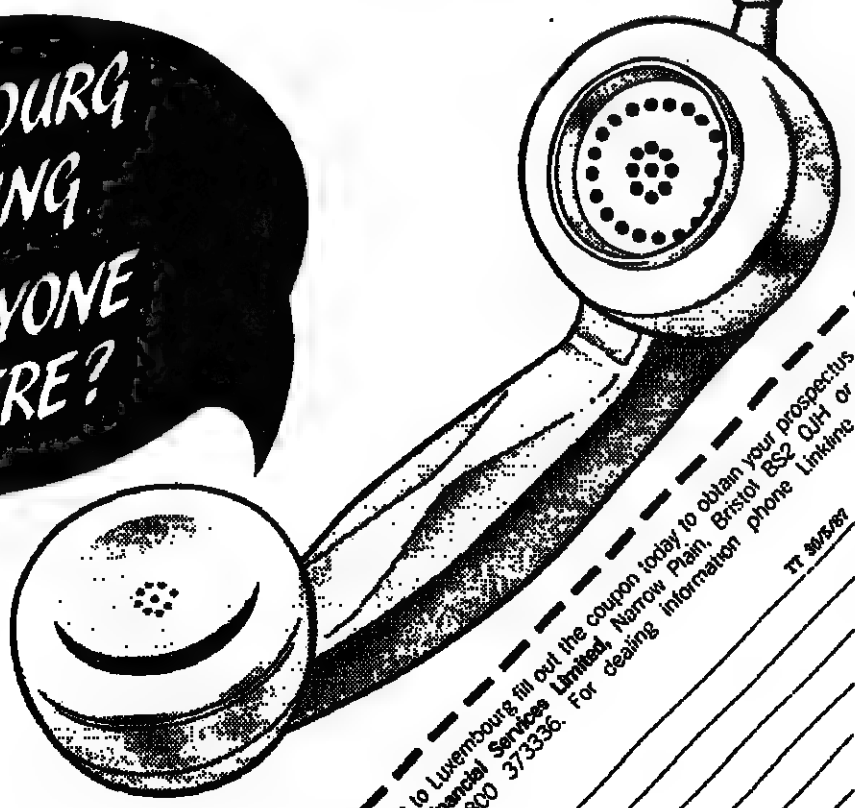
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FAMILY MONEY/6

How Kinnock makes you think ahead

TAX

WALTER SINCLAIR advises on pre-election tax planning

Good planning includes providing for contingencies. This is particularly true of tax planning at present.

The manifestos of the main parties have made it clear that only one of them stands for lower taxation, and Labour, in particular, favours higher taxes, particularly for the better off. The possibility of the Labour Party forming the next government should be taken into account in tax planning. This means taking steps now.

For maximum safety, arrangements should be completed, at the latest, by the time Parliament reassembles after the election. It is not likely that substantial tax changes will be put into effect immediately. But changes could be announced, effective from the date of the announcement, with legislation to follow later.

Readers would be well advised to direct their attention to opportunities for capital tax planning. In particular, there are inheritance tax openings that would be unlikely to continue if the government changes.

The biggest inheritance tax opening is that in general, the tax is not now charged on lifetime gifts. It is true that, should the donor die within seven years, some tax may be paid. However, it seems most unlikely that Labour would allow this freedom from tax to continue.

No specific reference appears in the manifesto but Labour does state that it will introduce a wealth tax. To

prevent wealthy individuals from reducing their estates by gifts, some tax on lifetime gifts seems likely.

So the first suggestion is to make lifetime gifts. Gifts could be made to your family outright. Alternatively, trusts might be used, particularly where the amounts involved are substantial. As the intention is partly to guard against a period with a higher tax regime, there is a strong case for "generation-skipping".

In other words, give money for the benefit of your grandchildren, rather than only for your children.

Accumulation and maintenance settlements are particularly useful for this purpose. The money you settle will be

Beneficiaries from a wider range

accumulated for your grandchildren until they reach a specified age and the income can be used for their maintenance and education.

However, to obtain full tax benefits, the trusts must specify that the beneficiaries receive the income as of right, by the time they are 25. You would normally also make stipulations as to when they receive the capital.

Transfers into accumulation and maintenance settlements are treated in the same way as other lifetime gifts for inheritance tax purposes. On the other hand, if you set up a discretionary settlement, the money you put into it is charged to inheritance tax at half the full rate immediately.

But this need not be serious. If you keep within the £90,000 nil-rate band (taking account of other transfers), no inheritance tax will be payable



when you establish the trust.

The particular advantage of a discretionary settlement is its flexibility. You are able to include as beneficiaries a far wider range of people, compared with an accumulation and maintenance settlement.

Gifts and settlements should not be confined to cash. Gifts of shares in a family company are particularly beneficial. Not only do they attract inheritance tax business property relief, but by gifting shares now you are likely substantially to reduce the value of your estate and hence the inheritance tax when you die.

You should not act without taking professional advice. Furthermore, make gifts only to the extent that you can afford them. From a tax point of view, gifts offer the greatest certainty. Settlements themselves may be subjected to more penal tax under a different government, but on balance seem worthwhile.

Capital gains tax has remained at 30 per cent since its introduction in 1965. However, there are many relieving provisions, such as for retirement and gifts - and the £6,600 annual exemption. Thus, it makes good sense to take capital gains now rather than waiting for a possibly more stringent regime.

Profits from property particularly have been penalized in the past. Therefore it makes sense to sell now, in case a new government were to bring back something like development land tax.

As always, the message is that you should do nothing purely for tax purposes but if it makes good commercial sense to realize profits now, pre-election prudence provides an added reason for so doing.

Wealth tax received only a very brief manifesto mention, from which it is impossible to deduce the exact rules that would apply. However, the redistribution of wealth and if you act quickly, you can do this in the way that you wish, to members of your

Invest overseas before the election

family. Basically, any inheritance tax planning is likely to have this effect.

Capital tax planning steps will often have the useful additional advantage of saving income tax. For example, if you give assets to your adult son, who has lower tax rates than you, this will save income tax. This tax saving would be greater if Labour came to power, as it is likely to bring back an investment income surcharge and increase the higher rates of tax.

The exchange control legislation has only just been repealed, although it has not been operated since 1979. Labour could bring it back, so if you have any plans for making investments overseas, play safe and finalize them before the election.

Walter Sinclair is a tax partner in Kidsons and author of the Allied Dunbar Tax Guide

M&G PLANNED INCOME PORTFOLIO

For many people the most important aspect of investment is income. If you need an income which will grow, unit trusts can be ideal. And the table on the right illustrates M&G's successful record of providing an increasing income.

The M&G Planned Income Portfolio is based on five unit trusts, and provides ten income distributions spread over the year. At 27th May 1987 the estimated gross yield on the Portfolio was 4.20%, over 31% higher than that of the FT Actuarial All-Share Index. Income is paid net of basic-rate income tax.

The income from the four older trusts in the Portfolio has risen nearly three-and-a-half times since the Extra Yield Fund was launched in 1973. Past performance is no guarantee for the future, but the income from this Portfolio is expected to continue growing in future years. With a Bank or Building Society deposit, however, the income can vary only in line with the general level of interest rates.

In addition to generating income totalling £13,002, an investment of £10,000 in these unit trusts on 1st January 1977 would have grown to £65,964 by 27th May 1987. In contrast a comparable Building Society deposit would still be worth only £10,000 and income from it would have totalled just £9,215 over the same period.

However, you should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The five funds described here are all designed to produce above average and increasing income.

DIVIDEND FUND aims for a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuarial All-Share Index, from a wide range of ordinary shares.

HIGH INCOME FUND and **EXTRA YIELD FUND** both aim for a yield about 60% higher than that of the FT Actuarial All-Share Index, from portfolios of ordinary shares.

CONVERSION INCOME FUND aims to provide a similar return, but its portfolio of ordinary shares has a strong bias towards smaller companies.

COMPARISON TABLE

Annual income* from an investment of £10,000

Year	Building Society	Four M&G unit trusts*
1977	£ 850	£ 843
1978	£ 779	£ 984
1979	£ 996	£1,110
1980	£1,200	£1,265
1981	£1,056	£1,284
1982	£1,003	£1,292
1983	£ 825	£1,338
1984	£ 848	£1,423
1985	£ 907	£1,617
1986	£ 750	£1,846

NOTES:
1 Net of tax to a basic-rate taxpayer.
2 Based on the Building Societies Association's recommended rate of return + 1½% on fully paid shares.
3 £2,500 invested in each of M&G Dividend, High Income, Extra Yield, and Conversion Income Funds on 1st January 1977. (The M&G International Income Fund is not included as it was not available until 1985.)

INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND aims to provide a high and growing income from an international equity portfolio, though exchange rate fluctuations may affect our ability to increase the payment in every year.

READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	INTERNATIONAL INCOME
Launch date	May '64	April '69	Feb. '73	Nov. '73	May '85
Initial price	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Price of Income units at 27th May 1987	577.1p x d	456.0p	267.8p	324.8p	70.1p x d
Estimated current gross yield	3.92%	4.15%	4.43%	4.11%	4.38%
% rise in Fund offer price since launch	+1054.2%	+812.0%	+435.6%	+549.6%	+40.2%
% rise in FT All Share Index over same period	+903.4%	+557.4%	+452.6%	+522.0%	+69.6%
Distribution dates	15 January 15 July	31 January 31 July	31 March 30 September	1 May 1 November	1 June 1 December
Trustee	Barclays Bank Trust Co Limited	Dydebank Bank Plc	Courts & Co.	Barclays Bank Trust Co Limited	Lloyds Bank Plc

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the "offered" price (at which you buy units) and the "bid" price (at which you sell) is normally 8%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently ¾% (except International Income, which is 1%) - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income is distributed on the appropriate dates net of basic rate tax. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for sale or purchase will be due for settlement 2 to 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 268266. Advisory Services: 01-626 4588.

TO: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB.

PLEASE INVEST A TOTAL OF £ (minimum £2,500) in income units of the following Funds, divided as indicated, at the price ruling on receipt of this application. (If no split is indicated, your investment will be spread equally between the five Funds). Minimum £500 in any one Fund.

DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	INTERNATIONAL INCOME
£	£	£	£	£

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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THE M&G GROUP



MOTOR RACING: MONACO SPECIALIST FAVOURS 20-CAR RACE

Prost is a pole apart as he adds fuel to the big grid debate

From John Bannan
Monte Carlo

The debate about whether it is desirable to have 26 cars on the grid for the Monaco Grand Prix or the usual 20 has been reopened with vigour in the aftermath of the series of crashes during the first day of qualifying, even though none of these was related to the decision to open the race to more cars.

Alain Prost, who not only has won this race for the past three years but is president of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association, is adamant that to admit more cars is a retrograde step. "This is always a difficult track on which to pass slower cars," he says. "And with more cars on the track the problem will be compounded in the race."

When it was put to him that in admitting all 26 cars and drivers into the race (in fact it will be 25 tomorrow as a result of Christian Danner's disqualification), the dangerous situation of up to seven drivers trying desperately to secure the last place on a 20-car grid had been eliminated, he conceded that this was so.

Problems caused by the drivers

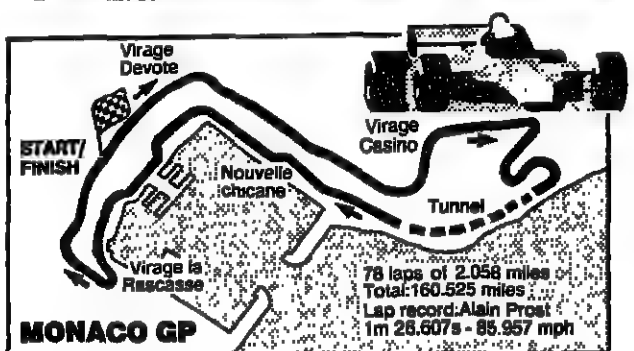
"But at least we were aware of the situation and knew that these drivers were probably too busy to be looking in their mirrors as we approached them during the last hour of qualifying. It is a question of compromises, and I haven't altered my view that 20 cars in a race here is sufficient."

But Bernard Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, has a very different view. "In the first place, you cannot run a world championship properly if you have different rules for different rounds," he says. "The rules state that 26 cars shall be admitted into each race, and that is as it should be. There is nothing wrong with the circuit here, and it forms an important part of the world championship."

"If you have an accident on the track it usually involves just one or two cars — the rest are scattered around the other parts of the circuit. So the



DIY Mansell: driver turned mechanic at Monte Carlo



problem is not caused by the cars on the track but by the drivers in the cars." Without naming names, he went on: "Idiot will always be idiot, and that's where the real trouble lies."

Marco Piccini, the Ferrari spokesman, concurred, adding: "Obviously, from a safety standpoint, 20 cars should be safer than 26, 15 safer than 20 and 10 safer than 15, but this is, after all, a world champion-

ship, and Mr Ferrari himself was prepared to back the 26-car proposal, even if a little reluctantly."

Ferrari, meanwhile, have been the busiest of all the Formula One teams here during their so-called "test day".

They arrived with four cars but are already down to two which are raceworthy.

Alboreto's spare has become his race car, replacing the one which was destroyed.

Prost remains the favourite

Alain Prost, however, remains many people's tip for another race victory. If he succeeds, not only will four Monaco victories in a row be a record, but it will be his 28th win overall. He shares the record with Jackie Stewart.

World Championship positions: Drivers: 1. A Prost (F), 2. S. B. Jones (GB), 3. N. Mansell (GB), 4. A. S. B. Jones (GB), 5. G. Agazzi (I), 6. G. Agazzi (I), 7. G. Agazzi (I), 8. G. Agazzi (I), 9. G. Agazzi (I), 10. G. Agazzi (I), 11. G. Agazzi (I), 12. G. Agazzi (I), 13. G. Agazzi (I), 14. G. Agazzi (I), 15. G. Agazzi (I), 16. G. Agazzi (I), 17. G. Agazzi (I), 18. G. Agazzi (I), 19. G. Agazzi (I), 20. G. Agazzi (I), 21. G. Agazzi (I), 22. G. Agazzi (I), 23. G. Agazzi (I), 24. G. Agazzi (I), 25. G. Agazzi (I), 26. G. Agazzi (I), 27. G. Agazzi (I), 28. G. Agazzi (I), 29. G. Agazzi (I), 30. G. Agazzi (I), 31. G. Agazzi (I), 32. G. Agazzi (I), 33. G. Agazzi (I), 34. G. Agazzi (I), 35. G. Agazzi (I), 36. G. Agazzi (I), 37. G. Agazzi (I), 38. G. Agazzi (I), 39. G. Agazzi (I), 40. G. Agazzi (I), 41. G. Agazzi (I), 42. G. Agazzi (I), 43. G. Agazzi (I), 44. G. Agazzi (I), 45. G. Agazzi (I), 46. G. Agazzi (I), 47. G. Agazzi (I), 48. G. Agazzi (I), 49. G. Agazzi (I), 50. G. Agazzi (I), 51. G. 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BOXING: IN THE WORLD UNIFICATION SERIES TYSON MAY FACE HIS STRONGEST CHALLENGE YET

Tyson's height may win the day

From Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent
Las Vegas

Every time Mike Tyson's manager, Jim Jacobs, looks at the Tale of the Tape and sees the height and reach difference between the 5ft 11in heavy-weight champion and his 5ft 3in opponent he has a little grin to himself. For Jacobs believes the bigger the discrepancy in the measurements the greater the advantage for Tyson.

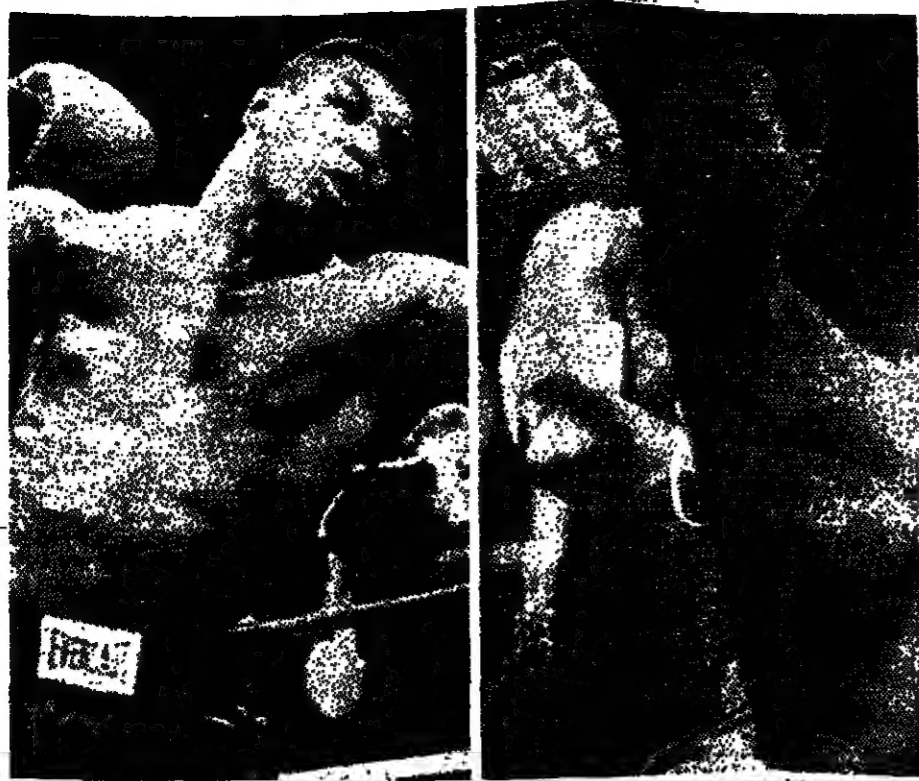
"Everybody talks about the reach advantage of a taller man. It is a myth," Jacobs says. "Hitting up is more effective than hitting down."

He said that Cus D'Amato, who was Tyson's legal guardian and trainer, used to laugh whenever people talked of height advantage. "Cus always used to say 'what they mean is height disadvantaged'."

So Jacobs was overjoyed to see Pinklon Thomas, the challenger for Tyson's World Boxing Association title at the Hilton Hotel tonight, was 3 1/2 inches taller and had a 3 1/2-inch longer reach. "You will notice that Tyson makes himself seem smaller when fighting," he said smiling.

Because of Tyson's power and high knockout rate, 26 in 31 bouts, the jab will be the key weapon. Thomas is thought to have the best jab in the world and his trainer, Angelo Dundee says, "Pinklon will do his number with jab, it's the closest thing to his jab. Pinklon is ready and move."

He also says Tyson is really a southpaw and has bad balance and Thomas will exploit that. "You will see Tyson floored by the over-



Battle stations: Tyson and Thomas prepare to fight for the right to be the ultimate champion hand right, Dundee said yesterday.

But the only man to have dropped Tyson (as an amateur), one Al Evans, does not believe Thomas has the power anymore to put Tyson on the canvas. "I know Tyson doesn't like to be hit but Thomas' jab is like that, man," he said flicking out his hand like a wet rag.

According to Jacobs "Tyson could take away Thomas' jab in the first two minutes, he will finish him in the first round. 'The incredible power and speed those short legs impart to his hands will enable him to out-jab Thomas,'" Jacobs said. But Tyson's trainer, Kevin Rooney was more cau-

tious. He believes Thomas will try to outsmart Tyson in the early rounds and get ahead. "Thomas is going to stick and move but he will not be able to do it for long and it all be over by four," he said.

Despite Thomas' superb outward conditioning and his record of only one defeat — by Trevor Berbick — in 31 contests, there is a doubt about his mental and physical strength. Thomas smoked, drank and took drugs in his formative years and in his best boxing days was beset by managerial and family problems. Thomas himself says of the drugs: "I know I did myself no good but at the time doing things that I did was the cool thing to do."

But that is not likely that he might not get lucky and catch Tyson with a perfect punch. It would have to be early, for it is unlikely that the latter once ran 100 metres in 10.5 seconds will be able to carry him out of trouble for long. It was only at the age of 20 that he realized he had to get out of the "fast lane" and change his ways; he is aged 29 now. His past could catch up with him tonight.

Second on the card is the International Boxing Federation heavyweight title bout between Tony Tucker and James Douglas. Tucker has a 34-0 record, including 29 knock-outs and is expected to win and go on to face the winner of the main bout in the

TALE OF THE TAPE

Tyson	Thomas
20	Age
218lb	Weight
5ft 11in	Height
71in	Reach
	Stance
43in	Normal
45in	Expanded
1lb	Boxing
14in	Forearm
34in	Waist
27in	Thigh
15in	Calf
19in	Neck
8in	Wrist
13in	Flat
11in	Ankle
RECORDS	
Turner 20 bouts 20 wins 25 knockouts	

Lean and hungry lions on prowl in the clay jungle

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Paris

The French championships will be half over by tomorrow evening and already a storm of great tennis is gathering. The leading contenders for the singles titles are beginning to raise images of sharp-clawed beasts of the jungle within sniffling distance of their first decent meal for a week. They look lean, hungry and awfully dangerous.

Take, for example, two likely semi-finalists: Ivan Lendl v Miloslav Meir and Martina Navratilova v Chris Evert. All four played yesterday and they assumed a splendour beyond their immediate needs. They were so magnificent, good that respectable opposition was reduced to rubble. To change the analogy, they were like minor deities deliberately taxing their resources to the limit.

Not that words like "storm" and "clouds" sprang easily to mind on a day of golden sunshine. The Roland Garros Stadium was at its best — particularly the packed centre court, in which the public, dressed in the colours of summer, formed a gigantic rocky enclosure in which two lonely figures hit and ran and emotionally shifted from hope to despair, from pleasure to pain.

That court resounds to amplified echoes, the nasal intonation of French umpires, the soft, lulling sound of shoes sliding on shale and the resounding pop of ball on racket. Visually, the geometric subtleties of clay court tennis are exposed in thrilling clarity. It was on this court, my

favourite in all the world, that the men's champion, Lendl, beat Thierry Tulasne, of France, by 7-6, 6-2, 6-2. The public were respectfully quiet, partly because of their awe at what Lendl was doing, and partly because of their sympathy for Tulasne. Lendl looked strong, fit and fast and so confident that he could indulge in such luxuries as the drive-volley and half-volley.

Lendl said that his coach, Tony Roche, had run him so

How they line up

The line-up for the last 16 in the singles is:

WOMEN: Navratilova v Hanika, Tauziat v Kohde-Kilsch, Evert v K Maleeva, Reggi v Sukova, Sabatini v Schimper, Sanchez v Karlsson, M Maleeva v Rehe, Kestel v Graf.

MEN: Lendl v Nystrom, Gomez v Berger, Sanchez, Novacek v Jaffe, Kuchan v Meir, Noah or Schapers v Yoris or Carlsson, Benhabiles or Chesnokov v Kirckstein or Wilander, Connors or Davin v Keretic or Osterhues, Arrese or Arias v Sundstrom or Becker.

hard that "I didn't know what my name was. If somebody is going to beat me, it will take a long time or he will have to play very well." Of Tulasne, Lendl added: "He came out of the blocks very fast. Then he began to hit short and I took advantage of it."

Meir beat Milan Srejber by 6-1, 6-2, 6-1. From 0-1 and 4-2 up Meir won 24 consecutive points and 28 out of 29, which

did not leave Srejber much scope for negotiation. By that time, indeed, Srejber was asking nothing more from life than somewhere to hide. He was so confused that he was even miffing the easy shots.

Meir was so baffling that by the time Srejber had worked out where the ball was going it had gone. As if Meir was not worrying enough, Srejber had trouble with foot-faults, which must be difficult to avoid if one's shoe size is 13½. Another Czechoslovak, Karel Novacek, yesterday came to the end of a remarkable streak in which he won 40 games out of 41.

Miss Evert won 6-2, 6-0 against Eva Krapf, of Switzerland, who was born in Czechoslovakia. Without shame, one offers the sonic pun that Miss Evert plundered the "exchequer". Miss Navratilova had a 6-1, 6-1 win over Petra Huber, of Austria, and then gave a press conference while nursing a miniature fox terrier — a special dispensation, because the only other dogs allowed on the premises are those loosely attached to security guards.

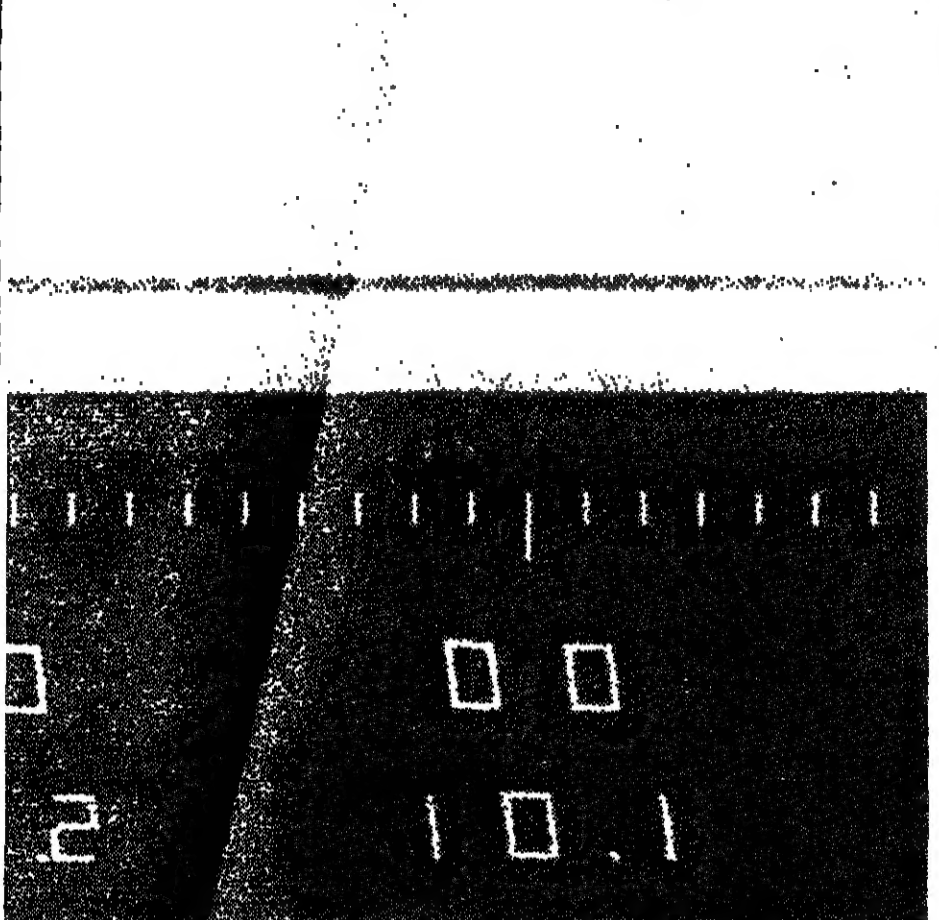
Miss Navratilova, whose private life is less conventional than most, dismissed rumours that she will soon be married but said that it was quite true that her former coach, Renee Richards, would fly to Paris next week to give her tactical advice. You may also be interested in the fact that Miss Navratilova has three addresses, which must be confusing for tradesmen.

Finally, there was a competent, stout-hearted British performance in the doubles when Jeremy Bates and Andrew Castle beat the tough Anzac team of Kelly Evenden and Wally Masur by 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 to earn a place among the last 16 pairs. One's joy in that modest triumph justified a brief repose at a log cabin in the Bois de Boulogne, where snack lunches are served in the company of dogs, sparrows and men who get very excited while playing a betting game called *la petanque*.

Results, page 39

Sponsor missing

The fifth British Closed Tennis Championships will be financed by the Lawn Tennis Association as no sponsor has been found for this year's competition. The tournament will be held at the Telford Racquet Centre.



The official Spanish Athletics Federation photograph shows the exact moment that caused the arguments in Seville. Although his head is clearly behind Carl Lewis's at the line, Ben Johnson, nearest the camera, has his torso — the part that matters — in front.

Lewis left to pose as Johnson wins opening encounter

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Seville

The Lewis camp argued long and hard that Carl had won the sprint against Ben Johnson here in Seville; but make no mistake, Lewis never won in a hundred years, let alone in 100 metres.

His excited reaction in raising his hand as he crossed the line, and claiming victory immediately afterwards are almost excusable. After all, he is as much a victim of the hype surrounding matches like this as the ingenious spectators who came to see him win and booed him when he did not. But his defeat was as clear to them as it was to anyone in the right place.

Lewis's argument was based on his bid for the line, "which he didn't do", he said, referring to Johnson. And, indeed, the photo-finish showed that Lewis's head had broken the plane at least equal to Johnson's torso. But since it is the latter that counts, and the rest of Lewis's body was a foot behind, the result went to Johnson.

It should have been inimitable, but the arguments from Joe Douglas, Lewis's manager, almost swayed the organizers, who had not distinguished themselves in the administration of the rest of the meeting on Thursday night. Indeed, the result was changed briefly in favour of Lewis, but sanity prevailed.

And that pleased virtually everyone in the "athletics family", as the IAAF president, Dr Primo Nebiolo, with little apparent irony, called this circuit. For the enigmatic Lewis remains immensely unpopular, an animosity which cannot simply be explained by envy of his four Olympic and three World Championship gold medals. There is certainly a feeling that he has not had to work hard for his success, given his talents. But that is only part of the story.

Marian Woronin, the personable giant of a Pole, who is European record holder and finished third in Seville, explained: "He is just not part of the crowd. The rest of us are all friends, including Johnson. We all stay together, while he is off somewhere else. It's all he can do to say hello. And then there's this posing around. He is like a marionette."

This is an approximation of Woronin's halting French, for he now lives in Marignane, near Marseille. But the message was clear. He was gesturing to a photograph of Lewis in a model pose on the front page of the local paper. And it is true that Lewis was staying

elsewhere — in a castle, would you believe? But this has more to do with Douglas, his rapacious manager, who similarly explains that Lewis is unlikely to compete in Britain, since the new tax laws regarding sports appearances insist on 27 per cent deductions at source.

But once the dispute died down, Lewis was persuasively eloquent about his chances of retaining his world 100 metres title in Rome in three months' time: "I made a couple of mistakes tonight. I didn't go with him when he surged in the middle, but I proved I can catch him. It's a result for me. It's going to be different when we get multiple rounds in Rome. That brings everyone down to the same level."

Johnson's response to it was a four-letter curse. He was complete contrast to Lewis, Jamaican immigrant to Toronto at the age of 10, had an incongruous stammer which he seems to be usually mastering, but contributes to his bluntness. But there is something glowing about his lack of grace. You see, it is he, like his refusing to dip, approached the line. The something elemental in this man. You either outright, or it is not winning, the athletics, lent of dying on rather than living.

Johnson's most telling (and longest) reply was: "I like the pressure. I need it to get me going." He was initially given the optimistic manual time of 4.8 seconds. But what else can organizers try when they have paid over \$50,000 for the work that out per second?

But Johnson said he believed he could do 4.8 seconds, "on a good day". He owns a non-altitude world best of 4.8 seconds, and the world record holder, Calvin Simmonds, languishing behind on seconds the other night.

Johnson was equally out of his block, returning home first thing next morning, while Lewis is having several television appearances before racing in Madrid next Thursday. At prices like these, the pair are unlikely to meet again until Rome.

Helping hand

Vendepac, the operated vending machine specialists, are sponsoring the National Athletics Championships for the Visually Handicapped for the third successive year.

McNeill sets out attacking plans

On his first full day back at Parkhead, Billy McNeill made it clear that his priority as Celtic manager for the second time was to try to make those players whose contracts have expired change their minds and stay with the club what he calls "the greatest club in the world" (Hugh Taylor writes).

He feels that Bryan McClair, recently linked with Manchester United, will sign a new contract, though still has to talk to both him and Maurice Johnston. Although there was no comment yesterday from McNeill, McNeill has reason to believe that McClair would prefer to play for him rather than move to England or to the clubs on the continent who are also interested.

McNeill said: "Just before I left Celtic for Manchester City I signed McClair from Motherwell. I never had the pleasure of working with him

but I hope to remedy that now."

McNeill stressed that he wants Celtic to continue to play in their spectacular attacking style and that is why he will also be talking to another forward, Alan McNally, another forward who is hunking at the terms offered.

He will attempt, too, to assess the contractual problems which have threatened the Parkhead career of Murdoch McLeod, the versatile Scotland international defender, who said last night that he has had offers from several European clubs.

While McNeill may soon consider making an offer for Charlie Nicholas, the Arsenal forward who came to the fore when he played under the aegis of McNeill at Parkhead, he declared that his immediate aim was to resign the four players out of contract.

My Frozen Pension of £5,000 p.a. is now estimated to be worth £117,000* p.a. when I retire!

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BSJ

Sunderland plump for Smith while Fairclough moves to Wednesday

By Martin Searby

Sunderland are expected to name Denis Smith, of York City, as their new manager at Roker Park this morning after a day of negotiation at Bootham Crescent between the chairman of the two clubs. With Smith will go Viv Busby as No. 2 after Sunderland agreed suitable compensation for the pair, who were on two year roll-on contracts.

Smith, who joined York almost five years ago as player-manager of the struggling fourth division side after a distinguished career with Stoke City, was the highest

paid manager in the third division and is likely to remain so with Sunderland presumably offering an increment on his current £40,000 a year.

In his second full season York won the fourth division championship and were the first team to top 100 points in a League season. Notable Cup victories over Arsenal and Chelsea also enhanced Smith's reputation.

The York chairman, Michael Sinclair, said: "I and my colleagues were aware of the Sunderland approach to Denis and Viv and we told them we did not want to stand in their

way. But both are on good contracts and fair compensation should be paid."

Howard Wilkinson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, yesterday signed the Nottingham Forest defender, Chris Fairclough, who was valued at £500,000 by Forest. But the fee is likely to be decided by an independent tribunal.

Fairclough, an England under-21 defender, who is at the end of his contract and who refused new terms from Brian Clough, is not expected to be Wilkinson's final signing of the summer, though, as he has already put in written

offers totalling around £500,000 for the Ipswich Town defenders, Steve McCall and Ian Cranston.

Mark Smith, Nigel Worthington and Chris Morris will probably all leave Wednesday. First division newcomers Portsmouth have made their second signing within 48 hours by taking Clive Whitehead on a free transfer from West Bromwich Albion. Alan Ball, the Portsmouth manager, believes the 31-year-old utility player will strengthen his squad and add some valuable experience as his club return to the top flight after an absence of 28 years.

Fourth division Wolverhampton Wanderers, who missed promotion in the end of season play-offs, have given free transfers to four players. The experienced Barry Powell is being released along with midfield players Roger Eli and Russell Turley, and Irish youth international forward Derek Ryan.

Northern Ireland's footballer of the year, George O'Boyle, aged 19, a midfielder with Linfield, has joined the French first division club, Bordeaux, for an undisclosed fee.

Away supporters shut out

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Only 500 supporters of the football club, Den Haag, will be allowed to attend the team's match against the league champions, PSV, in Eindhoven tomorrow, a PSV spokesman said.

The mayor of Eindhoven decided that matches which carry the risk of crowd trouble can be attended by only 500 of the visiting club's supporters.

Den Haag's supporters are considered the most unruly in Dutch football. The 500 will be brought by special train to Eindhoven and will be escorted to the PSV stadium, police said.

● **TURIN:** The Italian club, Juventus, may hire the West German midfielder player, Bernd Schuster, if medical examinations prove that he is fit. The West German, who plays for Barcelona, has been idle for one season.

Warm-up to Cup trials have an added punch

By Barry Pickthall

The two Solent Points races today and tomorrow take on fresh importance as a final warm-up for Britain's 15 Admiral's Cup trials before selection trials for the three boat team commence next weekend.

So far Graham Walker's Latex Andreu-designed, Indulgence, has shown great promise among the larger yachts while Alan Gray's Bruce Farr-drawn, Jamarilla, now fitted with a new rig to replace the mast badly bent last weekend, and the Dubois-designed, Full Pelt, owned by Stephen Fein have been the boats to beat amongst the smaller One Tonners.

Two boats expected to improve and provide Graham

Walker and his crew with greater competition for the big boat berth within the team is Robin Aisher's, Yeoman XXVII, and Blizard, owned by Ernest Juer.

The Farr-designed, Yeoman, has had 350lb of interior furniture removed since being imported from Australia, and a new rig stepped this week should have shed another 100lb allowing further weight to be shaved from her keel, but Blizard, a Humphrey's design, which has shown great promise at times, remains handicapped by a lack of sails. Her crew had hoped to receive these in time for this weekend's races but must now wait until next week, leaving precious little time to tune them.

Marsh's taxes

Terry Marsh will not have to pay £13,500 in taxes for his next bout, according to the British Boxing Board of Control. Warren had claimed that the board would demand that amount from the £147,000 purse Marsh will receive for the first defence of his International Boxing Federation light-welterweight title against Akio Kameda on July 1.

However, the board secretary, John Morris, said that Marsh would have to pay only a quarter of that amount.

Financial woes

Brentford Football Club made a loss for the financial year to May 31, 1986, of £5,594 compared with a loss the previous year of £292,959.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Speedy Aouita

Turin (AP) — Said Aouita, of Morocco, surpassed Steve Ovett's 10-year-old mark for the world best over two miles during an athletics meeting here on Thursday. Aouita, who lives in Italy, clocked 8min 13min 45sec to improve on Ovett's 8:13:51.

Russian trip

Moscow (AFP) — Officials of the Soviet National Olympic Committee announced yesterday that the country would send a team to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Shaw enters

Stephen Shaw has been given a wild-card entry into the Stella Artois tennis tournament at Queen's Club, from June 8 to 14. Shaw hopes to regain a place in the British Davis Cup.

Warnock dies

Jimmy Warnock, one of Ireland's all-time boxing greats, died yesterday after a long illness. He was aged 74. Warnock, a native of Belfast and a fierce competitor in the 1930s, was probably the finest Irish boxer never to win a world title.

Making plans

The British Amateur Rugby League Association are to set up nine regional centres of excellence to help prepare for the visit of the Junior Kiwis next season.

Makin signs

Salford have signed the scrum half, John Makin, the Great Britain under-19 vice-captain, from Wigan St. Patricks.

Life goes on

Sandy Lytle shrugged off marital problems to shoot round of 69 in the first round of the US PGA Memorial tournament in Dublin. On yesterday, The Scot was 1 stroke behind the leader, American, Curt Byrum, who 64 qualified the tournament record, as he registered 6 birdies.